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INSIDE EIGHT PAGES FROM SUNDAY'S
The New York Times
WEEKLY REVIEW

Battle lines forming for PNC Covenant debate
JON IMMANUEL

THE Palestinian National Council is scheduled to convene this evening in Gaza for three days of procedural matters, then take a break and convene again, possibly next week after the Moslem feast of Id al-Adha, to decide the fate of the Palestinian Covenant.

Salim Zaanoun, acting chairman of the PNC, who prefers to establish a new charter without explicitly annulling any part of the old one, will be fighting for his job, since one of the items on the agenda is the election of a new PNC chairman.

The official chairman, 93-year-old Abdel Hamed Sayegh, has not arrived for the PNC session. Zaanoun said in an interview with Agence France Presse, published in the daily *Hayat al-Jadida* yesterday, that the legal committee of the PNC would debate seven drafts of a new national covenant. All are similar in that they support the idea of a Palestinian state in friendly relations with its neighbors.

The final draft will then be presented to the full PNC for a vote. However, no proposal will be acceptable under the Oslo Accords unless it explicitly annuls the existing 33-article covenant or the 10 articles in it which call for the destruction of Israel.

The most likely result of the PNC session is a new charter, which would assert Palestinian rights to all of the territory up to the 1967 border, plus statehood and a capital in Jerusalem. At the same time, it would include an article invalidating the previous charter, first written in 1964 but in its present form since 1968.

The wording will be crucial and bitterly fought over. The new covenant must replace and not simply take precedence over the old one.

Members might argue that wording in the old covenant which does not explicitly call for the destruction of Israel but portrays it in a negative light, such as "associated with international imperialism," should stay. They might assert that it is reasonable to continue to refer to the PLO's role in "the liberation of Palestine" as events have changed the meaning of the word "liberation." However, it would leave opponents of the peace process free to interpret it in the old way.

Several members of the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine have arrived with the intention of voting against changing the covenant.

Mohammed Abbas, the Palestinian who masterminded the hijacking of the *Achille Lauro* cruise liner, entered the Gaza Strip yesterday to attend the meeting, *Reuters* reported. Hamas, which does not belong to the PLO or the PNC, distributed a leaflet yesterday urging members to boycott the PNC meeting until Hamas prisoners are freed.

US pushing for cease-fire plus pact



PM Shimon Peres and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher meet the press yesterday. (Brian Henders)

Israel won't link Hebron pullback to capture of Deif

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres is no longer linking the IDF pullback from Hebron to the capture of top Hamas fugitive Mohammed Deif, a source close to the premier insisted yesterday. The pullback is thus expected to occur before the May 29 elections, assuming the Palestine National Council annuls elements of its 1964 covenant calling for Israel's destruction.

The move would come amid growing confidence by Israeli officials that the Palestinian Authority has taken tougher measures against Hamas, including combing "hundreds of mosques" and finding a "few hundred kilos of explosives."

At the same time, security officials say they have no evidence that the PA has banned the military wing of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, as promised by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. Furthermore, senior security officials say, the PA has yet to apprehend five of the top 13 Hamas fugitives, including Deif.

During a March 17 cabinet meeting, Peres made clear that Deif must be caught before Israel's pullback from Hebron. Participants cited Peres as saying, "So long as an ill-wind emanates

from Gaza, and Mohammed Deif plans attacks which could come from Hebron as well, we have a problem. Until Deif and his friends are caught, we will not leave Hebron." Peres repeated his linkage between Hebron and Deif in public statements.

In a bid to enable Arafat to tell the PNC that a Hebron pullback is on the way and therefore they should annul the objectionable parts of their covenant, Israel has agreed to the deployment of up to 90 Norwegian observers in Hebron.

Foreign Ministry legal adviser Joel Singer, who has been negotiating with PA official Saeb Erekat on this issue, said he expects a Norwegian advance team of approximately 15 people to arrive in Hebron within the next several days. The Norwegians will not have a security role per se, but their presence would be modeled on the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre of 1994.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials are confident that two thirds of 660 delegates at the PNC session will vote to alter their covenant. It remains unclear whether they will do so at their meeting this week, or at a later series of meetings before the Oslo Accords deadline of May 7th.

It is feared that failure to do so would hurt Peres's electoral chances, and no less important for the Palestinians, jeopardize the estimated \$75 million in annual US assistance.

Diplomatic sources believe the PLO will annul the entire 1964 charter, and only agree on adopting a new charter after the Israeli elections. Apparently, the fear is that aspects of a new charter could antagonize Israeli support for Peres, such as a call for Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state.

Yet security officials are less certain. They note the "combination of the closure and the Kafir Kana" shelling in Lebanon last week could make it harder for the PNC to approve the moves.

In a recent interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Peres made clear that Israel's demand related to sections calling for the destruction of Israel, and would not deal with other issues. Settlers fear redeployment, Page 3

Peres held two sets of meetings with Christopher, and top aides on both sides met as well. A diplomatic source said Israel would like to see the following points as part of the new understandings:

"One, there would be no Katyusha attacks on the North. Two, there would be minimal friction between Israel and Hizbullah. Three, Hizbullah would not misinterpret the understandings. Four,

in the event of a violation, Israel would enjoy freedom of movement. Five, Syria would have a greater role in restraining Hizbullah."

The source hinted that the notion of "minimizing friction" could mean reduced attacks within the security zone, but admitted that there is no way Israel can obtain explicit assurances of no

attacks in the security zone, since Syria does not recognize the zone as a special entity. He refused to say that Israel explicitly called for an agreement which ends Hizbullah's use of Shi'ite villages north of the security zone. Whether this can be obtained in practice remains unclear, but it is clear that Israel's bargaining position is obviously weaker than it was before errant IDF shells hit Kafir Kana, killing more than 100 Lebanese refugees.

In his TV appearance, Christopher said Syria's motivation for achieving an Israel-Hizbullah cease-fire is its desire to resume the Washington-based peace talks.

"I think they want a cease-fire, because they would like to get back to the bargaining table, they would like to get back to the peace process," Christopher, speaking from Jerusalem, said.

"After all, Israel is occupying the Golan Heights, which Syria regards as part of its territory, so they've got a very important role in the long run and I do think that they would like to bring this fighting to an end so they can get back to the peace process."

"But their negotiations are going to be very difficult. There are some tough issues remaining," Christopher said. Assad is a key to ending the fighting, because "There's no doubt in my mind Syria has great influence over Hizbullah. That's why I'm talking to them. There's some influence also in Lebanon. But I think the combination of those two can bring this fighting to an end."

Complicating the US diplomatic drive has been the presence of several European foreign ministers in the area, also bidding to help resolve the crisis. Their efforts have been greeted with ill-concealed irritation by the Americans, despite public expressions of willingness to coordinate.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara yesterday praised a plan being advanced by French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette, which French officials say would include a guarantor role for Syria and Iran as well as Western countries.

"The French plan has several positive points, which are worth discussion to solve the current crisis," Shara said in a statement released by the official Syrian (Continued on Page 3)

Christopher continues Damascus-Jerusalem shuttle

DAVID MAKOVSKY, HILLEL KUTTLER, and news agencies

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher wants simultaneously to reach a cease-fire and detailed written understandings to reduce violence between Israel and Hizbullah. US officials indicated to reporters en route to Damascus yesterday.

The US has been disabused of the notion that it could first reach a cease-fire and only then reach new understandings, they suggested. It now believes they must be attained as one package.

Israeli officials insist the ongoing aerial, naval, and artillery attacks are the only lever to obtain new understandings.

Sources said the US officials also said Iran is providing Hizbullah with Katyushas, which are being fired at the Galilee. Speaking on ABC News's *ThisWeek with David Brinkley*, Christopher called on countries to take strong measures to marginalize Iran.

Christopher began his mission with a meeting on Saturday with Syrian President Hafez Assad. He flew to Israel yesterday morning for talks with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and returned to Damascus in the evening.

Christopher, who will meet Assad this morning before returning to Jerusalem, is expected to arrive at a first draft of the proposed new understandings today.

Israeli officials believe he would like to reach a deal no later than Wednesday. Some believe this is also Israel's wish, due to Independence Day.

At a joint press conference with Peres, Christopher declared his aim is to obtain a "cease-fire and an enduring set of understandings that can restore calm, can protect the civilians on both sides of the border."

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Cost of operation so far - \$100m.

DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

OPERATION Grapes of Wrath has cost the economy at least \$100 million so far, government officials said yesterday.

Government spokesman Uri Dromi said this initial estimate includes lost work days, damaged property, handling of thousands of evacuees, decreased tourism, and various other indirect costs of the 11-day-old operation.

"It could get much worse," Dromi added. Since the operation began, more than 500 rockets have been fired at Israel, Dromi said, noting that, according to government figures, about 450 Katyushas were fired by Lebanese and Palestinian groups from 1968 until the current offensive. He said 34 people died in those attacks.

According to the Income and Property Tax authorities, Katyushas have caused NIS 20m. in direct property damage and another NIS 50m. in indirect damage.

Kiryat Shmona Mayor Prosper Azran said 1,000 homes and more than 200 cars have been damaged in the town, as well as several factories.

The direct damage, according to the municipality's estimates, is around NIS 20m. and another NIS 50m. have been lost because of the closure of businesses and the effect on tourism.

Damage to tourism, Page 2

Central bank ups rates by 0.8%

THE Bank of Israel yesterday announced it is raising its key leading rate by 80 base points, to 14.8 percent, effective April 25.

Two months after it had last raised its discount rate, from 13.7% to 14.0%, the central bank yesterday cited new indications of inflationary pressures as the reason for its decision to further tighten its monetary policy.

The five major banks announced yesterday they will raise their prime lending rates 0.8% on Friday in response to the Bank of Israel's rate hike.

Fall report, Page 8

Remembrance Day begins at 8 tonight

REMEMBRANCE Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars will begin this evening at 8, when a minute-long siren will sound throughout the country.

Memorial ceremonies, organized by municipalities and local and regional authorities with the assistance of Yad Labanim, will be held throughout the country in the presence of IDF units, bereaved families, government representatives, and MKs. The main ceremony will be at the Western Wall, attended by President Ezer Weizman and Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

At 11 tomorrow morning, a two-minute siren will sound and official memorial ceremonies will begin at more than 40 military cemeteries and military sections of civilian cemeteries. Restaurants and other places of entertainment will be closed tonight and tomorrow. (Itim)

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IDF continues to blast Hizbullah

HIZBULLAH continued to fire Katyushas at the Galilee yesterday, despite intensive diplomatic efforts to try to broker a cease-fire.

Several salvos were fired at the Western and Central Galilee, as well as the Pandhandle. There were no casualties but one man had to be treated for shock.

The attacks prompted heavy shelling by IDF gunners of suspected Hizbullah targets and Katyusha launching sites north of the security zone. The IAF also struck at targets in south Lebanon, especially around the villages of Jibsheet, Ad-Sheet, Majdal Salim, and Kilela.

The IDF Spokesman said the pilots reported direct hits and all aircraft returned safely.

Navy gunboats continued to

pound the coastal road between Sidon and Tyre with missiles to prevent Hizbullah sending reinforcements or arms to the south.

There were also reports of several attacks near Syrian checkpoints close to the Awali River.

There were no immediate reports of any casualties as a result of the IDF attacks. Hizbullah, however, has been trying to conceal the number of casualties, which is thought to be far higher than those it had admitted so far.

More than 35 Katyushas were fired from Saturday midnight until last night, although less than 20 hit the Galilee or the zone. In response, according to reports from Lebanon, the IDF fired over 900 rounds of artillery and

DAVID RUDGE

there were at least seven air attacks. This would make yesterday one of the "quietest" days since the beginning of Operation Grapes of Wrath.

At least 50 families left Kiryat Shmona for Eilat and more have registered to take a break from the attacks and tension. Those who took the buses heading south said they did so reluctantly, but felt the need to get away, "if only for a little while."

"If while we are traveling a cease-fire is announced, we will be happy to turn around and come straight back. As it is, we just want to have a break for a while," said one woman.

Meanwhile, French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette visit-

ed UNIFIL and later the site of the Fijian battalion headquarters in Kana, where more than 100 Lebanese civilians were killed as a result of IDF artillery fire.

A special team has also been sent to the area by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to investigate the Kana tragedy. UN sources said the team of investigators met with Deputy Chief of Staff Maj-Gen. Matan Vilna'i.

The IDF enabled the Red Cross to send several aid convoys with food, medicines, and other medical aid to residents of southern Lebanon. The IDF Spokesman emphasized that since start of operation, the IDF has allowed dozens of Red Cross convoys to reach area residents.

IDF to probe Kana shelling

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE IDF has appointed a brigadier-general to investigate the shelling of the UNIFIL position in Kafir Kana in south Lebanon last Thursday, which killed at least 100 Lebanese refugees.

The internal inquiry will present its findings to the cabinet, said cabinet secretary Shmuel Hollander. In a statement to the press, Hollander reiterated Prime Minister Shimon Peres's position that Hizbullah is to blame for drawing the IDF fire upon the civilians.

Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj-Gen. Matan Vilna'i admitted yesterday that the shelling of Kana was a "professional military mistake."

"The IDF is not hiding anything and will hand over all the conclusions to whoever needs it," Vilna'i said, adding he does not believe a government commission of inquiry is necessary.

Vilna'i added that it is essential for the IDF to carry out Operation Grapes of Wrath to defend Israeli citizens. But he said the military is restricted from using its full might.

The IDF's decision to set up the internal investigation contradicts the position taken by Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak immediately following the shelling. He said then that there had been no mistake in judgment in firing the five shells which mistakenly hit the UNIFIL base.

Northern residents: Israel must do what it takes to achieve aims

RESIDENTS and heads of settlements in the North yesterday called on the government to "stand firm" until all the aims of Operation Grapes of Wrath have been achieved.

The message was relayed in a letter to Prime Minister Shimon Peres by members of kibbutzim in the Upper Galilee. It was echoed by Kiryat Shmona Mayor Prosper Azran in a press conference and in a meeting in Ma'alot between council leaders and Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr.

In virtually all the cases, the message to the government was the same: We are prepared to live with the present situation as long

as necessary - provided we don't have to go through it all again in another few months or years.

"We wish to strengthen your hand and that of the government and the IDF in Operation Grapes of Wrath," Upper Galilee Regional Council chairman Aharon Valenci, said in a letter to Peres. "We expect and hope that the outcome will be a document of understandings that will be more significant than those reached in Operation Accountability. We will remain steadfast as long as necessary to allow the IDF and the government to achieve the aims for which we began this operation."

DAVID RUDGE

The same message was conveyed to Orr when he met members of the forum of heads of confrontation line settlements. Orr called on residents and council heads to continue to be strong, steadfast, and patient saying: "Those who understand Lebanon know there is no quick solution. There never was."

He maintained that "nobody thought it would be possible to [completely] stop the Katyushas. Part of the response against Hizbullah is limited because we are trying to avoid harming civilians, although we don't always succeed."

"Hizbullah is making cynical

use of villages, ambulances, and homes, and there's no doubt that when you have to fight in this manner, your hands are tied."

He maintained that the IDF's operations have been effective and this can be seen in the fact that recent attacks had been more sporadic, less accurate, and less harmful.

"Nevertheless, as long as there is no cease-fire, the IDF is entitled to respond wherever it thinks necessary," said Orr.

Azran said Kiryat Shmona residents would not be in a hurry to return unless concrete commitments are given to ensure there will be no further attacks.



A member of an Artillery Corps gun crew takes a break from shelling Hizbullah yesterday to play a computer game. (Avihai Shapira/Israel Sun)

Talk of Peres postponing US visit due to lack of preparation

STEVE RODAN

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres, preoccupied with Operation Grapes of Wrath, has had little time to prepare for his visit to the US, and some of his aides have suggested postponing it, a senior official said yesterday.

He said neither Peres nor his aides have been able to develop the list of defense and diplomatic proposals they had hoped to raise with US officials during the visit, scheduled for April 28-30. These proposals include key strategic issues, such as a US-Israeli alliance.

US and Israeli defense officials have been discussing the agenda for Peres's visit for the past month. Currently, the head of the Pentagon's Ballistic Missile

Sources close to Peres dismissed the prospect of a delay in his trip, but acknowledged that Operation Grapes of Wrath has topped the diplomatic and security agenda over the last two weeks, thus preventing officials from properly preparing his agenda in the US.

During his visit, Peres is expected to raise a host of strategic issues, including cooperation in anti-missile defense, counterterrorism, guidelines on the use of civilian satellites, and development of a US-Israel alliance. The last issue is regarded as requiring the most preparation, the sources said, as Israel must ensure that any pact does not limit its freedom of action.

UNIFIL snubs IDF reception

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IN an apparent snub, UNIFIL representatives did not show up at a Tel Aviv Independence Day reception held by the IDF for military attaches yesterday.

The reception, held at the Eretz Yisrael Museum, drew representatives from dozens of countries, including Jordanian Army Chief Liaison Officer Mansur Abu Rasbad, Brig-Gen. David Tzur, head of the IDF Liaison Unit with Foreign Forces, dismissed the absence of UNIFIL representatives, saying they were likely busy with the fighting in

Lebanon.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said he was so busy he was unaware of the invitation. But he said that UNIFIL officers are not in the mood for celebrating due to Operation Grapes of Wrath and the IDF shelling of the UN position at Kafir Kana, which killed more than 100 people.

"We are not extremely pleased, as you know. The UNIFIL officers are very busy with the situation. They did not show up for practical and emotional reasons," Goksel said.

One-third drop in tourism feared

HAIM SHAPIRO

CONTINUED hostilities in the North could mean a drop of up to a third in national tourism, according to Hotel Association director Avi Rosental.

Rosental said he feared that many would-be tourists from abroad had already canceled plans to visit Israel. Others, who were thinking of coming to Israel, have now decided to go to other destinations this summer, he said.

"Tourism is a very sensitive industry," Rosental said.

He noted that the 14 hotels along the northern border were already empty. The few rooms rented were for journalists covering the hostilities. Every week the fighting continues, he says, means a loss of about NIS 3 million to the hoteliers in the area.

Even if the hostilities were to end immediately, he said, prospects for May and June in the North are very bad, since both Israelis and foreign tourists have

canceled reservations. The visitors will slowly return to the region, with Israelis, who are the most flexible, coming first.

In addition, he pointed out, about 2,500 hotel rooms in other parts of the country are presently occupied by families from the North. Some are free and others being rented at heavily subsidized rates, he said.

The present situation in the North and in Lebanon is only part of the problem, Rosental added. He said tourists were already frightened away by the recent terror attacks. Even last week's bombing in Cairo could influence visitors not to come to Israel, he said.

During the past few years, he added, the area has presented an image of stability which served to encourage tourists to come. Now this image has been shattered, he said. All this could have an immediate effect on the country's some 30,000 hotel workers, he said.

Meridor: Be tough

Likud MK Dan Meridor lashed out at the government yesterday, charging it would be jeopardizing the IDF's deterrent force "for years to come if it allows the current operation in Lebanon to end without anything in effect having been changed or accomplished. We must arrive at a situation in which the disturbances in the North cannot recur," Sarah Hanig

Memorial unveiled for Dizengoff victims

An unveiling ceremony for a memorial at the site of the Dizengoff Center suicide-bombing was held last night. Families and friends of the 13 victims, the chief rabbi,

and other public figures attended. Several people who were wounded in the March 4 attack also participated.

Itm

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Son, Simon and family

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share in the sorrow of the Gould family and the entire music community in Israel on the untimely loss last week of our dear friend and fellow bandmate

DAVE GOULD

To Rosa Landschaft

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on the passing of our wujek heniek -

HAIM LANDSCHAFT

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HAIM LANDSCHAFT

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مكتبة الجليل

PA displays 6 men suspected of plotting to kill Arafat

JON IMMANUEL

GAZA police yesterday displayed six members of a "secret wing" of Hamas whom they said had plotted to kill PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on orders from activists in Jordan.

However, two, who were presented at a press conference in Deir el-Balah, turned themselves in and will be amnestied, a policeman said.

The alleged plotters said they were given written instructions by Ziad Kishawi, who fled to Jordan from Gaza, to stalk Arafat at the Martyr's Cemetery in Gaza. They understood this meant to kill him.

Arafat, who visits the cemetery each Muslim holiday, was next scheduled to visit it on Id al-Adha (the feast of the sacrifice) this coming Sunday, said Col. Tawfik Jaber, Palestinian intelligence chief in southern Gaza.

Arafat waved a document before the elected Palestinian Council in Ramallah last week which he said showed Hamas activists in Jordan were giving orders which amounted to "a declaration of war" against the Palestinian Authority. The document, he said, was dated April 19 1995.

The "secret wing" uncovered publicly yesterday began working "about a year ago," Jaber said.

Coming one day before the convening of the Palestinian National Council, the press conference appeared designed to arouse emotional support for Arafat's leadership and to discredit Hamas.

In a leaflet issued yesterday, Hamas called on PNC members to boycott the PNC session which must change the anti-Israel national charter.

One of the two men permitted to speak, Muataz Kheil, said, "We decided to give ourselves up because it would harm the Palestinian people and we wanted to avoid a civil war." Another, Khaled Kuka, said, "We refused to assassinate. That was madness."

The group started functioning as a "revenge unit" after the death of Kamil Kheil, an Izzadin Kassam leader, who died in an explosion in his apartment a year ago while making bombs. Hamas said he was killed by Israeli agents.

Two other men who did not speak were identified as Ghanem Hashash, head of the secret wing, and Mohammed Mubawish, in charge of the wing's security.

Jaber said two of the arrested men had cooperated and helped lead to the arrest of Hamas gunmen and the prevention of six planned suicide attacks.



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (left) presents a plaque to Lenny Wilf yesterday at the dedication of the Harry Wilf Garden at Independence Park, donated by Wilf in memory of his father. (Brian Henner)

State given 45 days to draft new remand regulations

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday gave the state 45 days to draw up new rules ensuring that the remands of prisoners from the territories are extended in public hearings, with their lawyers present, rather than in secret.

The decision was in response to a petition by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), which charged that remand hearings are often held secretly in the interrogation chambers of prisons. ACRI also charged that attorneys and family members are often not even told when and where the hearings are taking place, and that even when they are, attorneys from the territories are often forbidden to attend because of the closure.

The state conceded there are problems with the current system, and said the IDF Judge Advocate General had therefore ordered the military judges to hold remand hearings in public halls within the prisons rather than in interrogation rooms from now on. The state also told the court it intends to allow attorneys from the territories to come to the hearings despite the closure, and that family members will be allowed to attend when possible.

High Court upholds land expropriations for Hebron area road

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday upheld the expropriation of land in Hebron to build a highway from Ashkelon through the Hebron hills, rejecting the objections of the Hebron city council.

The city of Hebron and 28 individuals petitioned the High Court against the expropriations in 1994, arguing the plan was illegal and unreasonable. On the legal side, for instance, the petition argued that the local planning and building council should have been consulted; that the plan was not publicized as required by law; that the composition of the board that heard the city's objections to the plan was improper; and that the objections were rejected without debate. The petition also argued

that the plan violated the Oslo Accords, that the expropriations caused an unnecessary amount of harm, and that the road was intended to benefit the settlers rather than the Arab population of the area.

However, Justices Aharon Barak, Gavriel Bach and Ya'acov Kedmi rejected all these arguments, saying the petitioners' claims were in many cases factually incorrect. For instance, they said, the plan was publicized via ads in three newspapers - *Al-Kuds*, *An-Nahar* and *Ma'ariv* - and a copy was also given to the Hebron Municipality. The fact that the city and 28 individuals

filed objections to the plan shows that it was not secret, they noted. Similarly, they said, the objections were rejected only after a lengthy debate; there were no irregularities in the composition of the council; and there was no obligation to consult the local planning and building board.

There was also nothing in the Oslo Accords to forbid the civil administration from completing plans drawn up before the agreement was signed, the justices added - particularly since the road is meant to ease the traffic flow for all inhabitants of the region.

The court therefore rejected the petition and ordered the petitioners to pay NIS 25,000 in court costs.

Injured Temple Mount rioters petition for compensation

EVELYN GORDON

FOUR Arabs injured when police fired on rioters on the Temple Mount in 1989 yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against the fact that they have still not received compensation.

According to the petition, all four demanded compensation from the government after the event, and the government agreed that it had an obligation to pay. However, it asked them to submit their claim to a special interministerial committee,

instead of suing the government in court. The petitioners agreed, thinking this would be quicker than a court case.

In fact, however, the petitioners did not appear before the committee until December 1995, since the committee session was repeatedly postponed. At that time, the petition said, they were promised a decision within a month. However, no decision has as yet been forth-

coming. The petitioners complained to the State Attorney's Office, but were told only that the matter was being taken care of, and they should not feel they were being neglected.

The four therefore turned to the High Court, charging that the state has not been acting in good faith. Since they gave up their right to sue in court at the state's request, the petitioners argued, the state owes them a speedy resolution of the matter.

Settlers fear IDF preparing to redeploy in Hebron

HERB KEINON

EGGED buses from Jerusalem to Hebron stopped going through Halhoul and began using the new Halhoul bypass road yesterday, leading Hebron Jewish activists to believe that the government intends to redeploy in Hebron before the elections.

Hebron settlement spokesman David Wilder said it appears as if Prime Minister Shimon Peres is "trying to appease [Palestinian Authority President Yasser] Arafat over what is going on in Lebanon by giving him Hebron."

According to the Oslo 2 accords, the IDF was to have redeployed in Hebron on March 28. The withdrawal was postponed after last month's wave of suicide bombings, with Peres saying that it would only take place after the PLO amended its covenant and did more to combat Hamas terror.

Wilder said that the Hebron settlement has not heard any official word from the government or the IDF about when a redeployment would take place. Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), who is to head the Palestinian side in final status talks, was quoted in the Palestinian press as saying that in last week's meeting between Peres and Arafat, it was agreed that the redeployment would take place toward the end of May, before the elections.

Hebron settlement leader Noam Arnon said that except for the change in the bus route, there has not been any other physical change that would indicate an imminent withdrawal.

The change in the bus route is significant, Arnon said, because not only does it add 15 minutes to the trip from Jerusalem to Hebron, but it also effectively takes scores of Israelis out of areas which, according to Oslo 2, are to be under Palestinian control. The road, however, is still open to Israelis in private cars.

A large rally against plans to redeploy in the city is scheduled for Hebron on Independence Day, with the participation of representatives from the National Religious Party, Likud-Tsomet-Gesher, and Moleket.

Bus bombing suspects to meet with lawyer

TWO men suspected of helping to commit the first bus No. 18 bombing in Jerusalem will finally be allowed to meet with their lawyer tomorrow, after almost a month in prison, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

It was responding to petitions by Mohammed Razem and Akram el-Kawasme, who were arrested on March 27 and March 28, respectively. Evelyn Gordon

FACT

(Continued from Page 1) News Agency SANA.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who is also in Damascus, told Iranian television: "Most of the participants in the efforts to end the Lebanese crisis are inclined towards the French plan, which is more balanced and nearer to reality."

But Peres said that despite the many diplomatic fronts, the one channel for negotiations is the United States.

"We shall not reject to see any one... but we cannot have three agreements on the same issue, because this will mean no agreement at all," he said.

Peres met yesterday in Jerusalem with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov and said he would prefer that one element coordinate these efforts, adding that Israel will not countenance the existence of several armed forces in Lebanon. "Hizbullah acts as an independent element, and the Lebanese government must disarm it," Peres said.

Regarding Iran, he said it supports, finances, and trains Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hizbullah, and that its statements are not to be believed.

Primakov said that in his meetings with Iranians he gained the impression that there are various trends and that not all of them support terrorism. However, he added, Russia will exercise its influence on Iran so that the latter will restrain Hizbullah and restrict its activities.

The cabinet, meeting as the Ministerial Defense Committee, was briefed by Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and other senior officers on the situation in the North.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni accused the IDF of destroying Lebanon three times. She asked Shahak, "Have you finished your campaign yet?"

Court delays hearing suspect's petition

The High Court yesterday postponed for the third time hearing a petition by Security company owner David Spector against Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, and other officials.

Spector argues the state ignored or concealed that officials

knew of an agreement with accused wiretapper Hani Mizaki, by which he would receive \$100,000 from Hachsharat Hayishuv in return for giving evidence against Spector and others regarding illegal wiretapping. Spector says such evidence is inadmissible. Raine Marcus

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KEREN KAYEMETH LEISRAEL

Relocation of KKL memorials, signs and dedication areas and/or plaques in the Ben Shemen area

The Spokesman's Office of the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael wishes to inform the public that due to major road infrastructure being carried out by the Public Works Department for the construction of the Trans-Israel Highway (Road No 6) sections of its veteran woodlands are, regrettably, being felled to make way for new routes along the planned highway.

The affected sections are along Road No 443 between the Ben Shemen Interchange and the settlements Givat Koah and Barket, and between the settlements Ben Shemen and Macabbim, where the existing road is being widened.

Unfortunately, a number of KKL sites including forests, groves, memorials and recreation areas have been consequently damaged, making it necessary to relocate all contributors plaques indicating these projects to alternate sites.

Plaque relocations will be coordinated beforehand with their contributors.

For further details and additional information please contact the Projects Division, Keren Kayemeth Leisrael, POB 283 Jerusalem 91002 in writing, or by telephone 02-639650, or 02-662214 or 02-662972.

Samaritans doubt they'll get Pessah funds from PA

THE tiny, ancient Samaritan community is preparing for its annual Pessah sacrifice on Mt. Gerizim next week, but has not yet received funds promised for the holiday by Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The community presently numbers 583, of whom 286 live in Nablus or on Mt. Gerizim, under Palestinian administration, and 297 live in Holon and are Israeli citizens. This year, for the first time ever, the sacrifice is to take place under joint Palestinian-Israeli authority.

"We are under the Palestinian administration, but as far as security is concerned we belong to Israel," said Peleg Al-Tiff, chairman of the Samaritan community in the Nablus area.

He stressed that the ceremony is

HAIM SHAPIRO

entirely religious in character and has no connection whatsoever with politics. The community, he said, wants to play down the occasion.

Both his community and that from Holon will gather on Mt. Gerizim, the mountain which the Samaritans regard as the holy place appointed by God, carry out their sacrifice, and remain for seven days.

The reason the Samaritan and Jewish Pessah festivals do not coincide this year is that this is a leap year according to the Samaritan tradition. According to a source close to the Samaritans, yesterday's rainfall, after the Jewish Pessah, but before the Samaritan one, is proof that their calendar is more accurate.

Meanwhile, however, the Nabine-based community has stopped getting a subsidy from the Israeli civil administration and promised funds from the PA have failed to appear. The promised funds include NIS 300,000 for the salaries of the Samaritan high priest and other religious functionaries and teachers, and the special Pessah subsidy of NIS 40,000, which had hitherto been paid by the civil administration.

Arafat promised both sums to the Samaritans in a meeting in December in Nablus. He told Nablus governor Mahmoud Alaloni to make the payments immediately.

"So far we haven't received one penny [agora]. We're still waiting," Al-Tiff said yesterday.



Queen Elizabeth II holds a bouquet of flowers and a birthday card yesterday as she greets well-wishers, celebrating her 70th birthday, after a church service on her Sandringham estate. (AP)

Chernobyl 'liquidators' seek special status

FIFTY "liquidators" of the Chernobyl nuclear plant are on hunger strike outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem to put pressure on the government to grant them special status.

The sick and handicapped "liquidators" said they planned to continue the fast until late tonight.

"For a year, we have been running around to obtain this special status and some of us will be dead before we get it," one of the group said.

BATSHEVA TSUR

But Sofia Landver, of the Soviet Immigrants Association, said that she and group leader Alexander Kalanterky had met yesterday with senior officials in the Prime Minister's Office.

"They've set up an interministerial committee to deal with the problem, and an expert from Ukraine will arrive soon to advise the committee

on the victims' status," she said. Landver said that they had pressed that the "liquidators" be granted the special status within a month.

The Ukrainian government has recognized the special status of those persons who, either as specialists or as simple workers, helped to liquidate the plant during the disaster which occurred 10 years ago. However, persons leaving the former Soviet Union lose this status and the ensuing benefits.

Yeltsin: I'll beat communist challenge

STEVE HOLLAND MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Boris Yeltsin said yesterday he was convinced he would beat off a communist challenge to win re-election and US President Bill Clinton said Washington would shape its policy to meet any outcome.

The two men ended five hours of summit talks with warm words and hugs, saying they had made progress towards solving differences over implementing two arms control treaties and touched on the Middle East where both have sent peace envoys.

But the elections the two men face - Yeltsin in June and Clinton in November - figured prominently at a joint news conference after a meeting in Yeltsin's private study in the Kremlin and a working lunch.

"I'm not going to think about this because I am sure victory will be mine," Yeltsin growled, brushing off a question over whether communist rival Gennady Zyuganov could oust him in a June 16 election which could decide the future of reforms.

Clinton, answering a question, said the relationship between the United States and Russia "will be defined by these elections" but avoided open endorsement of Yeltsin.

In a later remark to reporters as

he went to meet members of the Russian opposition, including Zyuganov, he said: "The Russian people will make that decision (the election). We will proceed accordingly."

Yeltsin, who had two mild heart attacks last year and muffed his lines and fumbled papers at the nuclear summit on Saturday, looked wooden at yesterday's news conference and it lacked the sparkle of many of his previous encounters with Clinton.

Clinton said he and Yeltsin had produced new hope of ending long-running disputes over the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty and the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty.

But the two leaders indicated they were still divided over NATO's plans to enlarge to include countries of eastern and central Europe - an issue which has been at the heart of uneasiness in relations in the last few years.

"NATO expansion will not be speeded up at our request for some time," President Clinton promised to use his influence on his allies on this, Yeltsin said.

Setting out a vision of coopera-

tion with NATO, he said: "I think a two-way agreement might be worked out. In our view, it might include a provision that no country may be accepted without Russia's agreement."

But Clinton said there had been no change in the stance of the West - which has repeatedly said Moscow cannot veto the countries of eastern and central Europe joining NATO.

Yeltsin stonewalled on the Chechnya conflict, an issue which many say could cost him re-election. Fighting has not ended but he said a March 31 peace plan was on track.

"The Chechen republic should be and will be part of Russia," he said. "There have been no military operations in Chechnya since March 31. It is another thing that some gangs are still running around there."

Clinton, who has been criticized by some human rights groups for giving Yeltsin a soft ride on Chechnya, said he viewed the region as part of Russia, but hoped for a peaceful settlement.

"The US has taken the position that Chechnya is a part of Russia, but in the end a free country has to have free association, so there has to be something beyond fighting," Clinton said.

Separatists claim India blast, death toll 17

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Two separatist groups said yesterday they had set off a powerful bomb that killed at least 17 people in the Indian capital to punish rivals and stop elections next month in troubled Kashmir.

The blast on Saturday evening toppled a lodging house in the crowded heart of New Delhi, killing eight foreigners and injuring 32 people, police said.

They said three Nigerian men, two French nationals and a Briton were among the eight foreigners who died in the 25-room boarding house in Paharganj, an area of cheap hotels and narrow lanes near Connaught Place, the capital's central square.

A joint statement from the Islamic Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and the Khalistan Liberation Force distributed to newspapers in Srinagar, summer capital of the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, said the bomb had been triggered by remote control.

"Some anti-movement activists including some foreigners of friendly neighboring countries of India were holding a meeting when the bomb was exploded killing all of them," it said.

Police said they were questioning an Iranian who was among the injured in hospital.

The blast, one of the deadliest in the city's history, occurred a week before the start of India's general election. Voting begins on Saturday and ends on May 30 in Kashmir.

The separatist statement said the bombing was part of an attempt to stop the elections taking place in Jammu and Kashmir, predominantly Hindu India's only Moslem-majority state, where more than 20,000 people have been killed in a six-year separatist insurgency.

"We have vowed to fight till last to stop India's plan to stage election drama," the statement said.

The parliamentary elections in Jammu and Kashmir, set for May 7, 23 and 30, would be the first since 1989. The Himalayan state has been under direct federal rule since the separatist revolt erupted in 1990.

The state's biggest pro-India regional party, the National Conference, has refused to participate in next month's polls, and militants have vowed to step up attacks against security forces before the polls. Indian authorities have said guerrillas might strike civilian targets.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, whose ruling Congress party is expected to lose its majority in the general elections, has sought to restore normalcy in the state by deploying thousands of security forces and striving to hold polls.



State of Israel

Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars

The day we remember our dear ones

On Monday, April 22, sirens will sound throughout the country at 8 p.m.

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On Tuesday, April 23, sirens for a minute's silence will sound at 11 a.m., at which time, national memorial ceremonies will be held at military cemeteries, and services will take place in cemeteries where the fallen are buried. Persons bearing weapons, including soldiers, will not be allowed into the cemeteries.

Ministry of Defense • Rehabilitation Division
Section for Memorializing the Fallen

Jaded Italians vote early, then flee to the beach

ROME (Reuters) - Italians turned out early to vote in a general election on yesterday, putting the chaos of their country's politics behind them to soak up the sun on the beach.

With Italy basking in glorious spring weather, voters took advantage of a seven a.m. start to polling to rush to the ballot box and then take to the seaside and hills.

The Interior Ministry said 16.7 percent of the 48.9 million eligible Italians had voted by 11 a.m., twice the turnout at the same stage of the previous election in 1994, which was held over two days.

Voting was due to end at 10 p.m., when television stations planned to forecast the distribution of seats in the two houses of parliament based on opinion polls of voter intentions carried out over the past week.

Definitive results were not expected before tonight but political commentators have pointed throughout a long and lackluster campaign to the prospect of a substantial draw between the two main blocs.

That could leave the federalist Northern League and Marxist party Communist Refoundation holding the balance of power between media mogul Silvio Berlusconi's center-right Freedom Alliance and Romano Prodi's center-left Olive Tree bloc.

Italy, now seeking its 55th post-war government, enjoyed a measure of stability through the Cold War years until 1992. Though notoriously short-lived, the country's rickety coalition governments were until then largely composed of the same parties and people.

Many Serbs move goods out of last rebel enclave

BELGRADE (Reuters) - More than a third of Serbs in the last separatist enclave of Croatia have moved goods out to nearby Serbia ahead of the area's transfer back to Croatian government rule, the local Serb leader said yesterday.

Goran Hadzic, newly elected interim "president" of Eastern Slavonia, also substantiated Croatian accusations that much of the property removed was looted from homes of Croats driven out of the region in a 1991 war.

He said his main task would be to "fight crime which has taken on disturbing proportions" and stop an exodus of Serbs, many of whom fear reprisal from Croat refugees due to return to their homes under a UN transitional authority.

Hadzic spoke in a newspaper interview published yesterday after he took over Eastern Slavonia's Serb administration in an apparent purge of Serb nationalist hardliners opposed to the gradual reintegration of Eastern Slavonia into Croatia.

The area will revert to full Croatian control by 1997 under an accord reached by presidents Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, the Slavonian Serbs' patron, and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia in Dayton, Ohio last November.

'US-N. Korean talks useful'

BERLIN (Reuters) - A first round of talks between the United States and North Korea to discuss Pyongyang's ballistic missile program has been "useful," the US chief negotiator said.

"The talks have been useful and we have gotten off to a good start," Robert Einhorn, the head of the US delegation, told Reuters, adding that the discussions were scheduled to conclude last night.

He gave no other details about the talks, at which Washington aired its concerns about the development and export of Pyongyang's long-range ballistic missiles.

The two parties broke for lunch after several hours of talks yesterday morning at the North Korean interest section of the Chinese mission in Berlin. The delegations began the talks with two sessions at the US mission on Saturday.

Definitive results were not expected before tonight but political commentators have pointed throughout a long and lackluster campaign to the prospect of a substantial draw between the two main blocs.

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INCREASE IN FREQUENCY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES TO MEMORIAL CEREMONIES AT CEMETERIES ON REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR THE FALLEN OF ISRAEL'S WARS ON EGGED, DAN AND ISRAEL RAILWAYS TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1996

Kiryat Shaul:	Special line 127, from the new Central Bus Station, via Derech Patah Tikva, Reh. Hanegvu, Derech Namiir, Central Railway Station, to the cemetery, from 8:30; and return after the ceremony.
Nahalat Yitzhak:	Buses will be added to Lines 63 and 53 from Tel Aviv - Ramat Gan, from 7:30.
Holon:	Buses will be added to Lines 40 and 42 from Ramat Gan, Line 2 from north Tel Aviv, Line 8 (Feeding Station), Line 18 from the Central Railway Station Arlosoroff depot via the Law Court, central Tel Aviv.
Patah Tikva:	Buses will be added to Line 49 to Kiryat Shaul. Buses will be added to Line 8 on its route to Segula from the Patah Tikva Central Bus Station.
Haifa:	Buses will be added to Line 92 from Bnei Brak to the Segula Cemetery. Buses will be added to Lines 43, 44, and 45. After the ceremony there will be express and regular buses to Tel Aviv. Transportation will be available to the public from the parking lots, and from the Exhibition Center (Freud Junction), to the Military Cemetery in Haifa and back after the ceremony.
Israel Railway:	To the ceremony: from Nahariya - 9:35; from Hatzrot Yassaif - 9:40; from Acre - 9:46; from Kiryat Motzkin - 10:03; from Kiryat Haim - 10:06; from Haifa Central - 10:23; from Bat Gallim - 10:30. Arrives at Hof Hacarmel at 10:35. From Rehovot - 8:40; from Be'er Yasskov - 8:44; from Lod - 8:50; from Tel Aviv-Haishalom - 9:10; from Tel Aviv Central - 9:15; from Netanya - 9:36; from Hadera - 9:48; from Binyamina - 9:58; from Ashdod - 10:15. Arrives at Hof Hacarmel at 10:25.
After the Ceremony:	From Hof Hacarmel to Haifa, the Krayot, Acre, Hatzrot Yassaif, and Nahariya - 12:00. From Hof Hacarmel to Ashd, Binyamina, Hadera, Netanya, and Tel Aviv - 12:35. There will be more buses on all city routes that go to Mt. Herzl.
Jerusalem:	From the new Tel Aviv Central Bus Station at 8:30. There will be more buses on Line 187 from Jerusalem.
Nahariya:	From special departure platform to the local cemetery, at 8:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30; and return after the ceremony. Also direct service to Acre.
Acre:	From the Central Bus Station to the Nahariya Military Cemetery at 8:00, and return after the ceremony.
Afula:	From special departure platform to the local cemetery, at 8:00, 9:30, 10:00; and return after the ceremony.
Kfar Warburg:	From the new Tel Aviv Central Bus Station, special departure platform, at 8:30.
Roah Pina:	From Tel Aviv Central Bus Station, at 8:45. From Haifa Central Bus Station, Platform 1, at 8:15; and return after the ceremony.
Beit Shean:	To Jerusalem, increased number of buses on Lines 967, 983, 984.
Negba:	From the new Tel Aviv Central Bus Station, special departure platform, at 8:30.
Be'er Tuvia:	From Tel Aviv, Line 5, near the Habimah Theater, at 8:30.

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مكتبة القدس

Belgian waffle ends; dancer here

WIM has come on a whim. At the end of the month one of the hottest names in European dance, Wim Vandekeybus, will premiere his *Exhaustion from Dreams Love* with the Batsheva Dance Company. It is the first time the Belgian dancer/choreographer has agreed to work outside of his own troupe; and marks a major coup for Batsheva.

"Batsheva have been asking me for about five years to come and work with them, but I really had no time," explained Vandekeybus last week in the cafeteria of the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, just before a rehearsal with Batsheva.

"Now I suddenly felt that the time has come and that my work can actually be done by others as well."

The 32-year-old choreographer came to this realization when he recently remounted his very first opus, *What the Body Does Not Remember*, with an entirely new cast aside from himself.

By coincidence, local dance lovers also will be able to catch

this work, as well as Vandekeybus' latest opus, *Bereft of a Blissful Union*, as his own company, Ultima Vez, makes its Israeli debut in the Israel Festival next month.

How does Vandekeybus feel about working with an existing dance company which is not his own and is not used to his style? "By now I really feel it's possible. And spending four weeks with these dancers you actually make them your own company for that time period."

Vandekeybus saw the Batsheva dancers for the first time only earlier this year. And his immediate realization was that "what they do is very different. They start from the movement, while I start from intentions. They are very good movers, but for me they have to make a click and think differently because my work starts with a story."

The Batsheva work is actually not an entirely new opus but a

reworking of Vandekeybus' earlier opus *Her Body Doesn't Fit the Soul*, which he describes as a story about senses, and which originally was danced with two blind people.

"And in order to make the other dancers limited too on stage, I attached one girl with a screw to the floor and it is eventually the blind man who frees her."

Some of the things in the new work will be identical to the older version, but this time there will be no film incorporated in it.

"This work is based on an Italo Calvino story about a man and a woman who share the same room and even sleep on the same bed, but they are never together because he works the night shifts and she works at daytime. It's a very tender, poetic story with lots of aggression underneath."

"However, I don't work in a linear way. I work very intuitively. And so there are several other

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

stories interspersed within this one, and all have to do with the far from clear border between reality and imagination.

"It's like a story where two people have one heart and they transmit it from one to the other, but the transplant must always be immediate and accurate or, it could be fatal."

Vandekeybus' wild and free imagination is also apparent when he talks.

He starts off with one subject and by the time he finishes a sentence, several minutes later, he has covered three or four additional topics as well.

But he always returns back to the essence of his very personal work which he tries to explain to the Batsheva dancers.

"Yes, of course they can move but now they have to start acting too. When we are talking about a

duo, the two people must communicate with each other, otherwise nothing will happen."

Vandekeybus gives very special titles to all of his works like *The Weight of Hand* or *Mountains Made of Barking*, for example.

"I wake up with these titles in the morning. The title is always very important for me. I'm inspired and influenced by literature. I always read 20 books at a time but in a way eventually all of my work is very autobiographical."

Vandekeybus, who also appears in many of his works, did not start dancing until adulthood.

He grew up in a farm, one of six children of a veterinarian. Later on he studied psychology and it is only when he was in his early 20s that he made the shift to the arts.

"I'm much more open-minded than those who started earlier.

Had I begun as a child, I would have never achieved my images."

These days he also works as a photographer and makes films too, his debut as a feature fiction film scheduled for next year.

He remains very impulsive, making decisions on the spur of the moment. "I start like this on the very first day of rehearsals. I'm very impatient from the beginning and the dancers like that, they like to have a limit to fight with."

In *Bereft*, Vandekeybus, however, does not dance. "It was too complicated a project."

With 12 dancers, including one Israeli, former Batsheva Ensemble member Roni Haver, 12 live musicians and a film, he decided to take the controls instead.

His very first opus, *What the Body Does Not Remember*, was about instincts and reflexes. "It was like brutal movement with-

out thought and eventually I did it almost blindfolded.

"So I thought one day why not make a show about the senses."

"And I advertised for blind people who were interested in performing. Eventually I got a phone call from Said Gharbi," and immediately the connection was made.

"He is a Moroccan with an incredible temperament, he is a great actor and has incredible violence too."

And now Said is one of the dozen dancers in *Bereft*, "but believe me if you did not know that he is blind you would not be able to guess."

Vandekeybus says that he does not aim at "entertaining his audience. They have to work hard to get a lot of messages out of my work."

The Batsheva Dance Company presents Vandekeybus' *Exhaustion from Dreams Love* from April 30 at the TAPAC. Vandekeybus' own Ultima Vez appears at the Israel Festival in Jerusalem at the beginning of June.

Missing the mark

FILM REVIEW
ADINA HOFFMAN
BROKEN ARROW

Directed by John Woo. Screenplay by Graham Yost. Hebrew title: *Code Shorim*. 104 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.

Vic Deakins — John Travolta
Riley Hale — Christian Slater
Terry Caranichael — Samantha Mathis
Col. Max Wilkins — Delroy Lindo

IN the opening frames of *Broken Arrow*, two men square off in a boxing ring. They both wear siren-red gloves and take turns slamming each other in the face to the sounds of dubbed grunting. The bigger, darker guy (John Travolta) is trying to teach the younger, scrawnier one (Christian Slater) a few things about combat — basic stuff, like how to anticipate your opponent's next move and outwit him with a smack in the stomach.

Welcome to character development, John Woo style. The Hong Kong action director's latest offering, a slick little package designed to excite 14-year-old boys around the world, unfolds as an extension of this initial pugilistic show-down. Vic Deakins (Travolta) and Riley Hale (Slater) are competitive friends and stealth bomber pilots, assigned to fly a test mission over the Utah desert.

Deakins, however, has other plans. With a quick one-two, he dumps Hale in a canyon, high-jacks the nuclear weapons on board, and ejects himself. He and a band of fellow air force renegades intend to demand a huge sum from the US government by holding a major metropolitan area for ransom with the threat of a mushroom cloud.

But they won't succeed if Hale can help it. After surviving the crash unharmed, he joins forces with a cute park ranger (Samantha Mathis), and sets out to stop the evil Deakins and his men from radiating the entire Southwest.

It goes without saying that *Broken Arrow* is extremely violent. Along with the perfunctory action-movie gun battles and hurled hand grenades, it features harrowing shots of Woo's trademark "creative" brutality: a man being run over by a jeep; another getting backed to death by a helicopter propeller; and yet another who is killed when a hammer is heaved at his brow.

And yes, like all Woo productions, the film boasts lots of nifty camera angles, is edited for optimal speed, and contains many sly wisecracks.

Aside from some over-the-top sexual innuendo and the Buster Keatonesque ability of the three main characters to emerge from any catastrophe unscathed, however, *Broken Arrow* isn't very funny. You don't have to be Bob



'Broken Arrow' is another film in which John Travolta flirts with radical self-parody as yet another 'smooth dude,' this time in the form of the evil Deakins.

Dole to find Woo's callous blend of gore and comedy more than a touch unsettling.

The Travolta character, in particular, seems an especially nefarious sort of heroic bad guy.

He gets all of the best lines in the film, and no matter what bit of action he's performing — taking a deep drag off a cigarette, baring his teeth in a wolfish grin, or firing his sidearm — whenever Vic's in the spotlight, the soundtrack shifts into his special theme, a four-chord pluck of the bass guitar which sounds like it was lifted straight from the score of a Tarantino movie. It's clearly meant to be the musical expression of Vic's total cool. So what if he's a vicious psychopath with a stolen cache of nuclear weapons programmed to blow up Denver?

The whole film suffers from an overdose of this same dubious cool, evident from just a quick

glance at the ultra-chic credits. Woo enjoys a major underground following that seems rather out of whack with his abilities as an efficient stunt technician. *Broken Arrow* may hold us as it zooms along, but so do the seat belts on a 747, and their manufacturers are hardly the talk of the town.

Travolta and Slater were fine as leading men in Tarantino movies (*Pulp Fiction* and *True Romance*, respectively), though that sort of attitude-as-acting can be disastrous if repeated too often.

Both men have their charms in *Broken Arrow*; both also flirt with radical self-parody — especially Travolta, who recently played yet another smooth dude in *Get Shorty*.

And lastly, the picture was written by Graham Yost, of hip *Speed* fame. Once again, Yost proves himself capable of composing lines that are brief and mindless

enough to be gasped by characters as they tumble through space, jump from burning vehicles, or cling to the back of moving trucks. Now that's talent.

My apprenticeship is over, says opera's new manager

HELEN KAYE
NITZAN, currently artistic director of the Cameri Theater, will direct a new production of *The Elixir of Love* by Donizetti; the designer is Ruth Dar. This is the first opera for both.

ANNAMUNITZ, general manager of the New Israeli Opera (NIO), runs a practiced eye over color prints from its recent production of *Nabucco*.

"One of these," she says, pointing at shots which display the chorus, the costumes, the set and the lighting to dramatic advantage, and as swiftly chooses another five or six pictures. They will be sent to a European opera house which is thinking of importing the production.

Holland's Maastricht Opera has already signed contracts to produce three NIO operas within the next two years. *Madame Butterfly*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci* and *Jenufa*.

Munitz is also expanding into coproductions with bigger houses. This season will see *Lady Macbeth from Mtsensk* by Shostakovich, and conducted by Valery Gergiev, in collaboration with the Kirou Opera.

The NIO and the Vienna Folk Opera will do Johann Strauss's jolly *Die Fledermaus* in 1999, and that same millennium season will see cooperation with the Vienna State Opera on Halevi's *The Jew*.

"Coproductions make sense because costs are shared, so you can use your budget differently, like hiring better singers," she says.

Her years of apprenticeship over, Munitz has come into her own. She pays tribute to Uri Ofer, whom she replaced last October: "One of the things he did, and for which I bless him, was to introduce a new standard of professionalism into production. I took and learned from Uri all that I could, but I'm very independent too. I go my own way."

This includes closer ties with international houses and an active commitment to developing the Israeli component in a company which, say local artists, has relied mainly on foreign talent for far too long.

Munitz grew up in Herzliya. At Tel Aviv University, she studied theater and philosophy for her bachelor's degree and was three years into law school before she quit.

"I think I've done every backstage job there is from assistant stage manager to producer," she says. She was working at the Cameri when Ofer offered her the job of NIO spokesperson, "and in those early days, I wrote the programs, too."

"I don't wave the feminist flag. I don't think that I've achieved or not achieved anything because I'm a woman."

Turmoil accompanied Munitz's appointment last September. Ofer had resigned just before he was accused of fiscal and administrative wrongdoing; the allegations have never been proven. Munitz was his deputy and therefore tarred with the same brush, her opponents claimed.

The Tel Aviv Municipality, which provides 25% of the opera's budget, didn't support her candidacy. Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo made no secret of the fact that his preferred candidate was Israeli conductor Daniel Oren.

Now Oren is committed to three productions from 1998 on, and despite Munitz's initial fears of active opposition from City Hall, "I've had its full support from the moment the board made its decision."

The NIO's 1996 budget is NIS 44.5 million of which NIS 11m. comes from the municipality, NIS 15m. from the Arts and Culture Authority, and the rest is earned income.

Munitz's appointment was provisional for a year. When Ofer resigned, she had said, "If they ask me, I'll consider it."

Now, her message is different: "I want to continue."

The other revivals are the traditional double-bill of *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*, the production that's going to Maastricht, and *The Barber of Seville*. There are also two equally popular guest operas from the Deutsche Oper, Berlin: Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and A Masked Ball by Verdi. The conductor for these will be Rafael Frubbeck de Burgos, a frequent visitor to the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's podium.

The NIO and the IPO are going to collaborate too. They will mount a joint production of Saint Saens's *Samson and Delilah* in honor of Israel's 50th birthday in 1998. The director will be the Berlin Opera's Gotz Friedrich, who has done *A Masked Ball*.

"I WANT to create a good international house, but with its roots in our own culture and using our own artists because they bring with them what they grew up with," says Munitz. "The first call I made as general manager was to Omri Nitzan," she adds.

MUNITZ STARTED at the NIO with Ofer 10 years ago, but she has been in theater all her professional life. Born in Stuttgart, both her parents were Holocaust survivors who immigrated in 1949.

Conductor sent packing after remarks

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT
THE British conductor Gilbert Varga was in an airplane seat rather than on the podium on Saturday night, as a row over politics put a premature end to his scheduled series of concerts with the Haifa Symphony Orchestra.

It all began during the HSO concert on Thursday night. Varga, who had declined to take a bow after the first piece — leaving solo pianist Daniel Gordler to acknowledge the audience alone — made critical remarks about Israeli government policy to Gordler during the intermission.

According to Gordler, Varga compared Israel to a terrorist police state. At the end of the concert, Varga again failed to take the customary bow, leaving the audience and orchestra somewhat perplexed.

Once orchestra members heard about Varga's comments a quick decision was made not to perform with him on Saturday unless the conductor officially apologized.

HSO music director Stanley Sperber says that "at

one point Varga thought about apologizing to the orchestra, but then the story was somehow leaked to the press and then all hell broke loose."

The HSO issued an official statement: "After the conductor's remarks against the policy of the government of Israel and his unprofessional and his unethical behavior at the end of the concert, it was decided not to let him conduct the orchestra's concert on Saturday."

"The HSO has always believed that politics should not be mingled with its artistic work and it will never let any artist use the orchestra for such purposes."

The task of breaking the news to Varga was left to Sperber, as orchestra general director Ben-Ami Elnav was in the US. Eitan Globerson, HSO conductor in residence — who had conducted the rehearsals prior to Varga's arrival — took the podium instead in Nencyana, while Sperber explained to the audience the reason for the switch of conductors. Varga himself left the country Saturday afternoon.

SEE IT IN HEBREW
HEAR IT IN ENGLISH!

POLLARD
April 30 at 9:00 p.m.

The controversial play about the United States naval officer, Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life sentence in an American prison for spying for Israel. Mr. Pollard has since been granted Israeli citizenship. A panel discussion, which includes Ann Pollard, will follow the performance.

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May 7 and 21 at 8:30 p.m.

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to be held at the end of Independence Day,
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Libi Fund and the Association of Friends of Libi will hold a nation-wide auction at the "Tiroche" Gallery in Herzliya, to be broadcast live on the Sales Channel, Channel 21.

★ Anyone can participate in the auction from their home by phoning 03-6975183, or at the gallery. Everyone buying contributes to Libi. The Sales Channel will also contribute to Libi 10% of all of the receipts from sales of products in the "Buy and Contribute" campaign, to be presented on the Sales Channel beginning at 8 p.m. on the Eve of Independence Day, through 12 midnight at the end of the holiday.

★ Some of the main items to be sold in the framework of the auction will be exhibited during the coming days on the Sales Channel.

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A contradiction in terms

THERE was something irresistibly simple about Prime Minister Shimon Peres's solution to the Israeli-Palestinian problem. Postulating that there are two reasons for Palestinian bitterness and hostility - the Israeli occupation and a low standard of living - he came up with seemingly obvious solutions.

To eliminate the first cause of unrest, Israel withdrew from the Arab towns and villages in the territories, and let the Palestinians establish a self-ruling political entity which will inevitably become a sovereign state.

But raising the living standards of a population of almost two million is obviously a far more complicated problem. Peres knew that only a massive international effort, led by the US, can transform a relatively backward system to a thriving, modern economy.

Such a massive effort is not beyond the ability of the US and the other economic giants. The US alone implemented the monumental Marshall Plan which rehabilitated Europe after World War II. Loans, investments and grants from the world's rich democracies should put the Palestinian Authority on its economic feet, Peres believes. And he has managed to persuade the industrial nations not only that such a goal is desirable, but that it is eminently attainable. As a result of his efforts, a group of donor nations has pledged more than \$1 billion to the PA.

To Peres's credit it must be said that the notion of a Middle East Marshall Plan is not a product of the Oslo agreements. He proposed it at least a dozen years ago. It is based on the assumption that prosperity is a potent antidote to murderous animosity. Terrorists are bred in miserable refugee camps, Peres seems to believe, not in seaside villas.

That Iran, one of the region's richest countries, has become the fountainhead of today's terrorism seems to militate against this supposition. But even if the premise is valid, there are fatal flaws in the plan. The most obvious of these is that unlike the European participants in the Marshall Plan - democracies with a highly developed economic culture - the PA is a hopelessly corrupt, villainous police state like most of the regimes in the region.

This is why it should not be surprising that the conference of donor nations held in Brussels on April 11-13 had second thoughts about their commitments to the PA. The emergency funding approved at the conference amounted to a piddling \$27 million, earmarked for the PA's

public works projects and a project proposed by the UN to support small workshops. To add insult to injury from the PA's viewpoint, the amount will be taken from money already pledged previously to the PA - which means that the conference produced no additional financial assistance.

Peace Watch, the non-partisan organization monitoring the implementation of the Oslo agreement, reports that both Israeli and Palestinian sources sense a steep decline in the donors' willingness to provide assistance to the PA. The donors are disappointed by the way the Oslo agreement is being implemented. They cite in particular the uncertainty about amending the PLO Covenant, the grave doubts about the way the elections to the Palestinian Council were conducted, and the delay in Israel's withdrawal from Hebron.

But much of their concern has to do with purely economic issues. The donor nations' demand for financial "transparency," specifically their request that all PA financial activity be conducted through the PA Finance Ministry (which is subject to International Monetary Fund auditing), has not been met. The donors have discovered that the PA's Office of the President was conducting unaudited financial activities: using monies paid by foreign corporations doing business with the PA (mainly Israeli firms), while bypassing the Finance Ministry. Funding from various sources would also find its way directly to the Palestinian Preventive Security Forces, without ever going through the supervised Finance Ministry.

Perturbed by such irregularities, the donors refused to subsidize the income of PA employees. As a result, the PA was forced to declare a five percent salary cut for all employees.

Another factor which contributes to the donors' pessimism is that Israel does not seem to want to lift the closure in the near future. The loss to the Palestinian economy because of this closure is conservatively estimated at \$1 million a day. But Israel is understandably unwilling to trade its security for Palestinian relief.

The vision of a prosperous Middle East is unexceptionable even if it fails to counter the appeal and fervor of Islamic militancy. No one in his right mind can object to a better life. But the Oslo negotiators were so eager to produce a lightning agreement they failed to understand that prosperity with Arafat as partner is a contradiction in terms.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE POLITICS OF HUNGER

Sir, - It is easy to recognize mistakes after you have made them. It is much harder to recognize mistakes while you are making them.

Most Palestinians just want to be able to feed their children and have a reasonable opportunity to attain self-respect. They have a chance to do this with the peace process. Hamas, on the other hand, has different aims. To achieve them, it must win the hearts of the Palestinians. This is difficult when they have full stomachs. The bombs they sent to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem were not aimed at just killing a few Jews. They were aimed at emptying the stomachs of the Palestinians. This aim has been successful. We have closed Gaza, so that the pressure cooker can heat up. The Hamas people are laughing their heads off at how easy it was.

Now you see Palestinian policemen trying to suppress demonstrations of Hamas. This is very similar to the beginnings of the Iranian revolution. Soon the demonstrations will get bigger. They will turn into riots. The hungry policemen will turn around and join the rioters. Arafat will fall as easily as the Shah of Iran fell. Of course the clowns in Likud and Labor will be busy electioneering and debating whether it is worthwhile to give up the Golan.

When Gaza turns into Teheran, all our fantastic weapons of war will be useless. You cannot fight women and children with an F-15. Israel will look like Bosnia and Beirut combined. There will be a war far worse than anything in our history. It will happen so quickly that there will be no time to stop and go back. The peace process with Arab neighbors will be irrelevant. The world will be as impotent as it is in Bosnia.

If we are to do something, we must do it now. The closure of Gaza must be lifted. We must make every effort to fill the stomachs of the Palestinians. A border crossing capable of moving people between Gaza and Israel quickly and securely must be built. This would allow produce and labor to cross, but not bombs. Some bombs will inevitably get through. These, we will have to take in our stride. The alternative is far worse.

CLIVE BLUSTON

Karmel

ANTI-ZIONISTS

Sir, - May I comment on the letters by Dr. Berthold Wylar, "Eye on the Media," and by L. Yuval, "Please, stop it" (April 2).

First, we have to realize that anti-semitism has undergone a fundamental change since Hitler and the Nazis, the only ones who added the racial dimension to Jew-hatred and rendered the term universally ugly and therefore unusable. While there are many antisemites about who hate Jews for all sorts of reasons, some now call themselves anti-Zionists and deny that they are antisemites. Anti-Zionism is unique in only one way: it is the first form of Jew-hatred to deny that it hates Jews. Whether they call themselves anti-Zionists or not, a considerable number of editors, journalists and other media personalities, including some self-hating Jews, fall into this category. They can easily be recognized by their almost constant criticism of Israel and pro-PLO stance.

Mr. Hugh-Jones is but the latest in a long line of editors and journalists exposed by David Bar-Ilan in his "Eye on the Media" column for the anti-Zionist antisemites that they are. The almost continuous Israel-bashing by "some of our best friends," proves the old Dr. Goebbels adage, that "if one tells the same lies long enough, people will begin to believe them."

Messrs. Wylar and Yuval inveigh against David Bar-Ilan without one single piece of specific evidence to disprove what he said about the international editor of *The Economist*. Mr. Hugh-Jones admitted having said that "Jews have no more right to Israel than Amazon Indians to California." This remark, in whatever context it was used, is the clearest possible evidence of his thinking. His article in *The Economist*, "Did he say it or didn't he?" provides proof of his backing for Arafat and his rejection of proof in Arafat's many speeches since Oslo of his clear intention of wanting to destroy Israel.

David Bar-Ilan deserves our sincere thanks for his unceasing battle against our media enemies. It is sad that there are not more of his caliber both here and abroad.

BILL OAKFIELD

Netanya

NORWOOD OLD SCHOLARS

Sir, - It is planned to form an Israel branch of the Norwood Old Scholars Association (NOSA) and I would like to hear from any boy or girl who was a resident at the Jewish Orphanage, West Norwood in London. Should any of your readers know of any such people who are not already in contact with me, I would be grateful if they would contact me or arrange for the person concerned to contact me by telephone, 09-629341, or fax, 09-840966.

KENNETH BERG

Netanya

MEMORIES

Sir, - I was reading Meir Ronnen's article of April 3, "Picart and the Curie's," and it brought back moving memories for me. Years ago, I lived in Barranquilla, Colombia. I had some very nice neighbors called Curie. They were Catholic as far as we knew. But every Friday night before sunset, Mrs. Curie lit two candles in her front-room window. One day, I asked her why she lit those candles on Friday night. She replied: "My great-grandmother lit them, my grandmother lit them, and my mother told me I must never forget to do so."

REGINA J. CHURBA

Netanya (Manchester)

RECIPES

Sir, - In your interesting article, "Pessah nostalgia" in your Pessah supplement, Ms. Cashman mentions that she has never been able to emulate the exact taste of her mother's egg and onion mixture. May I suggest she use chicken fat (*shmalz*) to bind the mixture. Today, most people use oil or margarine, which may be good for one's cholesterol level, but not one's taste buds.

NOMI KALISCH

Netanya

LISTEN!

Sir, - In his article of April 9, "The old opposition," Abba Eban says: "The least debt we owe to the Israeli opposition is to understand what it says."

I would like to suggest to Mr. Eban that the least debt he owes to himself is to understand what Arafat says. Mr. Eban is not listening and/or understanding.

ROSALY EVNINE

Jerusalem



Harvesting the grapes

AS Operation Grapes of Wrath proceeds, certain questions need to be faced urgently.

Should we begin diplomatic negotiations now? With whom? What should the objective of such negotiations be?

Clearly, if we begin negotiations after the IDF has succeeded in ending Hizbullah's rocket fire on Galilee, we will be in a far stronger position than if we negotiate while Katyushas are still falling on northern Israel. Background music of that kind won't strengthen our hand in the negotiations, and ongoing negotiations can only make it more difficult for the IDF to complete its job.

If our political leadership allows it, the IDF can certainly restore tranquility to Galilee. One only hopes that the leadership will have the wisdom, stamina, and determination to let the IDF finish the job before it enters into negotiations.

There should be no negotiations with Hizbullah. Written or unwritten "understandings" with this terrorist organization, sworn to Israel's destruction, are less than worthless. If anybody had any doubts on this score, the serious mistakes inherent in the "understandings" reached after Operation Accountability - by now probably clear even to those in our government who saw them as an achievement at the time - should serve as an object lesson in what not to do this time.

Although Syria might initially seem the obvious partner for negotiating an agreement that would assure peace for Galilee, it is most unlikely that such an agreement can be reached at the present time. Although Lebanon is no more than Syria's - or more correctly, Assad's - puppet, the Syrian dictator continues with the charade that the government in Beirut is sovereign, and that he, while sympathizing with Hizbullah, can do nothing to prevent it from attacking Israel.

There remains the Lebanese government. It will do nothing

MOSHE ARENS

without Assad's approval, but Operation Grapes of Wrath, if successfully concluded, may create the incentive in Damascus necessary to encourage the Lebanese to take the task of restraining Hizbullah upon themselves.

A written agreement with the government in Beirut to this effect would likely bring about the stability and tranquility we seek on our northern border, setting the stage

The government's response to attacks by Hizbullah in the last three years has been ambiguous. It must now be clear

for an eventual withdrawal of the IDF from southern Lebanon.

That should be our aim when negotiations begin, and nothing short of it should be acceptable.

But it is possible that the domestic penalties of such an agreement, as perceived in Damascus and Beirut, are such as to preclude its attainment.

THAT WOULD leave Israel with two options: deterring the launch of Katyusha rockets by guaranteeing a massive response; or making sure that Katyusha launchers are not positioned within range of our northern border.

It is being said that Katyushas in the Galilee were, are, and will continue to be part of the lives of Israelis who live in the North until a comprehensive peace with all our neighbors is achieved. But the facts contradict this defeatist complacency.

For almost 10 years, from Operation Peace for Galilee in June 1982 until the killing of Hizbullah leader Abbas Musawi

in February 1992, not a single Katyusha was fired from Lebanon against Israel.

Until the second redeployment of the IDF into the present security zone in 1985 the launchers were out of range; and over the following seven years, even though the security zone was narrower than the range of the Katyushas, the memory of Operation Peace for Galilee was evidently sufficient to deter all parties involved - Hizbullah, the Shi'ite villagers in southern Lebanon, the government in Beirut, and Assad in Damascus - from returning to the tactics that brought such disastrous results to Lebanon in 1982.

And when, after Musawi's death, the Katyushas reappeared for a few days, a quick and effective IDF response in the air and on the ground, accompanied by a message to Damascus that this was only the beginning unless the rocket attacks ceased, was sufficient to restore quiet.

Unfortunately, the Labor government's ambiguous response to Hizbullah's attacks over the past three years - the "understandings" with Hizbullah of 1993, the restraint shown after numerous Hizbullah attacks against the IDF and against Galilee towns and villages, the prime minister's apology to Hizbullah for so-called mistakes of the IDF last month - has managed to erode our deterrent capability and led to deterioration of the situation.

Hopefully the current operation will lead the Lebanese government, under Syrian tutelage, to the conclusion that Hizbullah must be curbed. Even lacking a formal agreement, the operation, if successfully completed, will serve as an effective reminder to all concerned that allowing Hizbullah to attack Israel in the future will entail prohibitive consequences.

If that doesn't work, there will be no alternative to pushing the Katyushas out of range.

The writer is a former defense minister.

devoured. Meanwhile, the Lebanon war, planned as a 48-hour operation, dragged on for 14 years.

Now a new episode in the Lebanon saga has begun. A group of politicians and generals, all with spectacular records of failure in Lebanon, are trying the old methods anew.

Foreign Minister Barak asserts that he is out to "teach Hizbullah a lesson." Rafael Eitan proposes that Israel conquer the region again, a disastrous idea that would expose thousands of IDF ground troops to a new generation of suicide attackers. And Shimon Peres returns to Rabin's Operation Accountability.

We have heard many excuses for the escalation of violence in Lebanon: Elections are around the corner. There is (justified) fury in the border settlements. The Israeli public demands action.

Yet we know that failure is virtually guaranteed. After all, expelling the Shi'ite population from South Lebanon does not alienate it from Hizbullah. Quite the contrary: As Shi'ite refugees take shelter in Hizbullah's social institutions, their rage and dismay only bring the organization more support and volunteers.

For a real solution to the crisis in Lebanon, Israel must move forward in negotiations with Syria and Lebanon, and it must extricate itself from the security zone. This would deprive Hizbullah of its "war of liberation" excuse, and the population would no longer have reason to support the organization in continuing attacks on Israel, returning Hizbullah to the extremist fringe.

Israel found itself riding a tiger called the security zone, and it was scared to dismount, lest it be

The writer is head of the Peace Bloc.

Our mistake

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

THURSDAY'S terrible tragedy in Kana in Southern Lebanon in which more than 100 Lebanese civilians were killed and scores more wounded is highly disturbing.

First and foremost is one's shock and dismay over the shattered bodies, many children and old people.

The senseless carnage would have been unbearable under any circumstances. But the knowledge that our forces were responsible, albeit unintentionally, makes the tragedy all the harder to stomach.

No one in Israel was naive enough to believe that we could fire thousands of artillery shells at Hizbullah fighters and not occasionally hit some innocent civilian. But the assumption was that if the IDF can identify the spot to which a Hizbullah fighter has fled after firing his Katyusha, well, it can certainly spot a group of 250 civilians taking refuge in a UNIFIL camp.

The conclusion? Either someone spotted them but was willing to risk their lives in the attainment of some short-term tactical gain, or - as seems more likely - the IDF was so immersed in its "surgical operation" that it ignored everything apart from its targets.

The army did warn the local population to vacate areas likely to turn into battlegrounds. But that doesn't mean it wasn't obliged to do everything it could to avoid hitting anyone who ignored the warnings.

Israel has always known that Hizbullah is ready to endanger the lives of innocent Lebanese civilians by taking refuge behind or among them. And so its reaction to the Kana tragedy, effectively that "What happened there is exactly what Hizbullah wanted," is hardly a worthy one.

Since we knew what Hizbullah is capable of, we should have been all the more careful not to fall into the trap it set for us.

Israel, unlike Hizbullah, has always tried to avoid harming civilians. But the media pictures

Last week's tragedy in Kana was much more than a mishap

from Kana make that fact largely irrelevant as far as world public opinion is concerned.

The Lebanese government is apparently not only incapable of defending Lebanon's interests; it seems totally apathetic as regards the fate of its own citizens.

A normal, effective government would have done one of two things in the situation Hizbullah has created: It would either have tried to neutralize Hizbullah's forces in southern Lebanon by disarming them or curbing their free movement, or it would actively have encouraged the civilian population to vacate the danger zone temporarily, as did Israel in the case of residents of Upper and Western Galilee.

BUT THE Lebanese government is Assad's vassal (for which state of affairs Israel's attempt to have a pro-Israeli government imposed on Lebanon back in 1982 is at least partly responsible), and thus it is impotent.

Consequently no one feels that it was in any way responsible for the lives of the 100 Lebanese citizens slaughtered at Kana, and since no one expects anything from Hizbullah, it is Israel that emerges as the main culprit.

The result is certain to be a lessening of international sympathy for the realization of Israel's main objective in Operation Grapes of Wrath, namely, stopping the Katyushas from falling on the Galilee.

Since it is no secret that Israel's partner for a permanent settlement with Lebanon is Damascus rather than Beirut, and that the attacks on Hizbullah are also designed to get Syria to change its attitude toward the organization, the success of Grapes of Wrath depends totally on its effect on Damascus.

President Assad has to his credit a massacre or two involving the deaths of thousands of civilians, and the loss of 100 Lebanese civilians isn't anything he is likely to lose sleep over. He will thus undoubtedly take advantage of the tragedy to go on dragging his feet and raising difficulties in his negotiations with Israel.

Whether one takes the humanistic approach or an attitude of cold realism, one cannot escape the conclusion that what occurred last week at Kana was much more than a mishap.

The writer is a political scientist.

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Harm's Way Israel's Artillery. Lebanon's Pain. Syria's Victory.

By YOUSSEF M. IBRAHIM

A little more than five years ago, at the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, it was hard to find a policy maker from the United States, Israel, Egypt or Jordan, or among the Palestinians, who had a kind word about Syria and its hard-line President, Hafez al-Assad. As an outline of peace began to appear in the Middle East, the Syrian President was still resisting the sweep of optimism, and this led to descriptions of him in the corridors as a "dinosaur," "deadwood" — a relic

strikes and shelling that sent waves of Lebanese refugees northward. The clear message received in the Arab world was that unless Lebanon and the country that pulls the strings there, Syria, intervened to rein in the guerrillas of the Party of God, Lebanon itself would suffer new trauma.

But the Israeli calculations went terribly wrong last week, when guns firing back toward a spot near the village of Qana where Katyushas had been launched hit not guerrillas, but civilians huddling for safety in a United Nations post. The fiery deaths there of 75 Lebanese set off horror in the Arab world and frantic international activity to arrange a cease-fire.

And attention turned to Damascus and Mr. Assad, whose cooperation in reining in Hezbollah had been the point all along.

Questions remain, of course: Just what does Mr. Assad want in this crisis? What does he stand to gain? How amenable will he be to working out a deal that looks toward peace rather than war?

Top Egyptian policy makers here, who are normally contemptuous of Syrians, are not very sanguine. They say that understanding Mr. Assad's calculations begins with understanding Israel's:

The Israelis, according to this analysis, were trying to get Damascus to disarm the Party of God and freeze that group's backer, Iran, out of the Middle East equation by forcing Syria's hand in Lebanon. The object was a new agreement on peace along Israel's northern border in a tacit exchange for no challenge to Syria's continued hegemony over Lebanon. With that achieved, Israel could then hope Mr. Assad would resume negotiations over an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. "What is demanded of us," a senior Syrian official reportedly told his Egyptian counterpart, "is to guarantee Israel's peace of mind if we wanted peace of mind in Lebanon."

But there was a problem with that scenario: Mr. Assad is not a tender man, nor

Assad has always sought to be the one who could veto peace. Now he is.

of the past soon to be swept away as the cold war had been swept away by the collapse of Communism.

In the bitter spring of 1996, however, the clearest image looming over the Middle East appears to be that of renewed conflict.

And the clearest winner, for the moment, appears to be Hafez al-Assad — sitting pretty in Damascus, receiving an unprecedented visit by the foreign ministers of the world's most powerful nations. They are coming to him as the key to restoring calm for Lebanon and Israel — and, perhaps, for restoring life to the peace process.

More than a week ago, after Iranian-backed guerrillas in Lebanon sent Katyusha rockets into northern Israel, the Israelis struck back ferociously in Lebanon, with air



The shelling of Qana set off horror in the Arab world and tore apart hopes of restoring Israel's relations with Lebanon. On Friday, a Lebanese Muslim cleric, left, and two Christian clergymen visited victims at a hospital in Tyre.

has he been moved to compromise for nearly 30 years by the fact that Israel has occupied the Golan Heights.

Thus, the Egyptian officials say, the trials of the Lebanese are not likely to move him. This is, after all, a man who did not hesitate to deal in a deadly fashion with 15,000 of his own citizens in Hama who had rebelled against his authority back in the 1980's.

If anything, some of the Egyptians surmise, Mr. Assad would like to see the Israelis

even more deeply involved in attacking Lebanon so that international public opinion will continue to turn against them and their chief supporter, the United States.

Indeed, the fighting in Lebanon has already set back the process of "normalization" between Arabs and Israelis. That process had opened the doors of many an Arab capital to Israeli diplomats even as the doors of Damascus remained firmly shut and Mr. Assad continued to frown on what

his controlled press called "an undignified rush to embrace the enemy."

Last week, Mr. Assad's brand of talk was finding an echo in capitals like Cairo, where the wave of violence in Lebanon has reversed the sympathy extended toward Israel after the suicide bombings staged on its own territory by the radical Islamic Palestinian movement Hamas. Anti-American

Continued on page 3



Flight attendant: What do you all do up here . . . when autopiloting?
Just hang out?

First officer: You still gotta tell it what to do.

Captain: If the autopilot didn't work, he'd be one busy little bee right now.

First Officer: (sound of laughter).

From the cockpit recording of a plane that crashed on Oct. 31, 1994.

The Banter Before Tragedy
What conversations in the cabin say about airplane crashes

By Adam Bryant

2

Who Knew?

Iran sent Bosnia arms and Clinton looked away.

By Elaine Sciolino

3

Rioting in Africa

A legacy of apartheid practiced by freed slaves.

By Howard W. French

3

Herbal Tease

Who regulates natural food supplements?

By Gina Kolata

4

Wired Life

The Great Unplugged Masses Confront the Future

By STEVE LOHR

A new technology is opening up new vistas for democracy, education and personal enrichment, a magazine predicts. "The Government," it says, "will be a living thing to its citizens instead of an abstract and unseen force. . . . Elected representatives will not be able to evade their responsibility to those who put them in office."

The new medium will be like a gigantic school, the magazine declares, and "have a greater student body than all our universities put together."

The year was 1922, radio was the new technology, and the magazine was Radio Broadcast.

But it might just as well have been 1996, the technology of the Internet, and the magazine Wired.

These days, Wired chronicles the rise of the digital communications and entertainment on the Internet. And best sellers by champions of technology like Nicholas Negroponte of the M.I.T. Media Lab ("Being Digital") and Bill Gates of Microsoft ("The Road Ahead") portray the wired future as a second renaissance that will bring about a new life for everyone.

Veterans of previous outbreaks of technological euphoria are skeptical. "Each time a new medium comes along, great hopes are raised," said Erik Barnouw, a professor emeritus at Columbia University and a media historian. "But the lesson of history is that every new medium provides new opportunities for selling as well as for education, for monopolists as well as for democracy, and for abuse as well as for benefit."

There is some recent evidence that the rush to the information age is slowing, at least temporarily. Eco-

nomics, social attitudes and sheer exhaustion with the torrid pace of technological change are all cited as reasons. Still, in a nation that is second to none in embracing what is new, the notion of an all-encompassing technological renaissance is being reconsidered rather than rejected wholesale. It's possible that a few people are tossing out their personal computers, but there are not many.

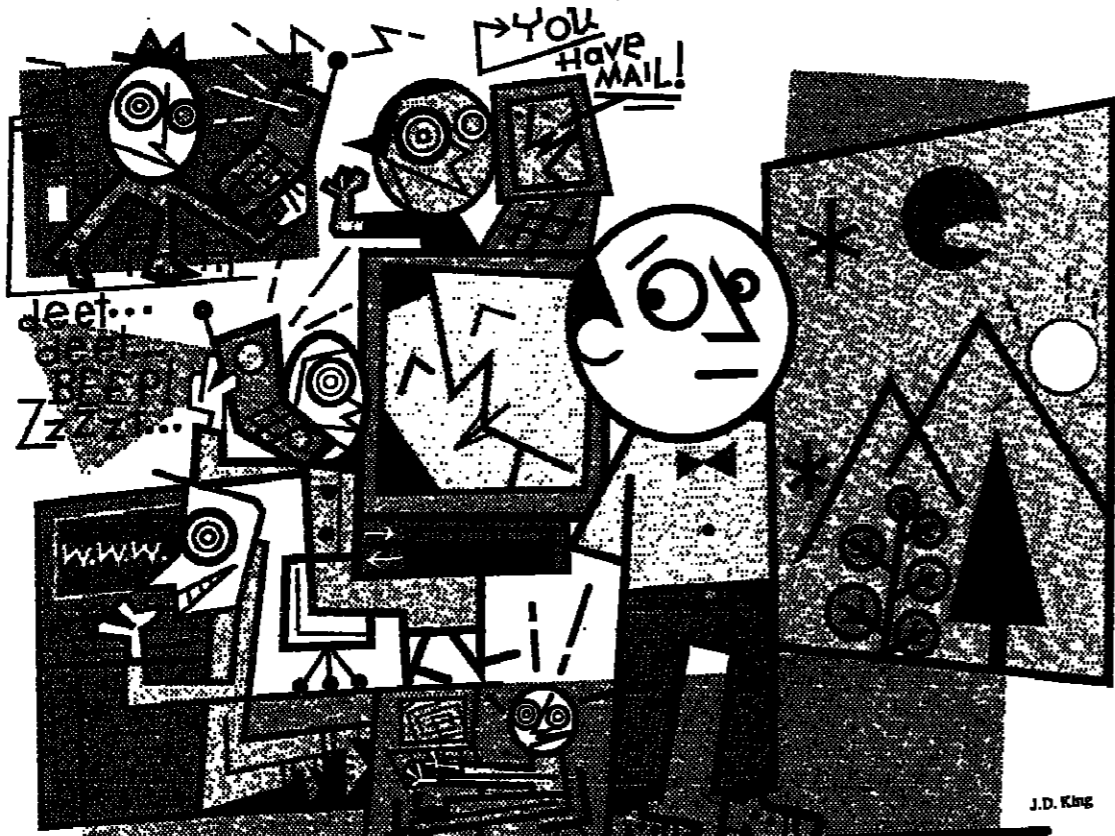
Yet, a small but vocal community of anti-technologists would like to stir up a backlash. And they have demonstrated that people are paying attention. Witness the cottage industry of naysayers, led by authors like Clifford Stoll ("Silicon Snake Oil") and Kirkpatrick Sale ("Rebels Against the Future"). Indeed, today's Luddites (the followers of the 19th-century English machine-smashers who resorted to sabotage and assassination) are suddenly gaining respect. Last weekend, 350 people gathered in Barnesville, Ohio, for the Second Luddite Congress. Even the Unabomber, today's most famous Luddite, has struck a chord, though his methods are deplored.

Virtual Disneyland

Scott Savage, who was one of the organizers of the Barnesville congress and is the publisher of Plain Magazine, a journal of the simple life, said, "Our message to people is that they don't have to live in some virtual Disneyland, which is where so much of society seems to be headed. People can make choices about technology and reject it."

Mr. Sale, who is trying to rehabilitate history's

Continued on page 4



J.D. King



Inside a Boeing 727, room for bathroom.

Kirk Condoles/Impact Visuals

From an Airliner's Black Box, Next-to-Last Words

By ADAM BRYANT

FEW offices have as little privacy as an airliner cockpit, where a microphone picks up a pilot's every word, chuckle and yawn. A recorder, housed in a so-called black box, continually erases all but the last 30 minutes of conversation. It stops when the plane's power is off and, on much rarer occasions, in a crash. If the recorder is recovered, the tape is analyzed by investigators. It is then transcribed and, as with details released last week on the crash in December in Cali, Colombia, it is made public.

Releasing the transcripts is a practice that irks many pilots. It is disrespectful to the pilots and their families, they say, and casual readers may not understand when pilots are relaxed as opposed to lax. Pilots are a team, and a bit of joking can improve the way they communicate.

Nevertheless, the transcripts can be immensely valuable in determining why accidents occurred. Last week, two weeks after the crash that killed Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown and 34 others on a military plane in Croatia, the Secretary of Defense ordered that the recording devices be installed on military aircraft carrying passengers. (They are not required on private planes, like the one in which the 7-year-old pilot Jessica Dubroff was killed this month.)

The transcripts are studied closely by safety experts, particularly those concerned that increasing automation may lead to complacency in the cockpit. The planes are now generally so reliable that safety experts are shifting their focus to pilot behavior, which is cited as a factor in about three of four crashes.

"It is the last frontier of aviation safety," said H. Clayton Foushee, vice president of flight operations for Northwest Airlines. The Federal Aviation Administration and NASA are studying the problem of automation and pilot boredom. It is a concern throughout the industry that many airlines and manufacturers are trying to alleviate.

When cockpit banter acceptable in the same way that surgeons sometimes chit-chat over an open heart, and when is it dangerous? The F.A.A. prohibits "non-pertinent" conversation below 10,000 feet, and that includes taxiing. But when a jet is waiting in a line of 15 planes to take off, or at cruise altitude or in a holding pattern, is anything wrong with a little small talk?

It is a subtle problem. For investigators, part of the solution is looking beyond the poignancy of knowing more than the pilots about their imminent fate. Here are excerpts from four transcripts of cockpit conversations before the planes crashed.

On the Way to Cali: 'Uh, Where Are We?'

Last Dec. 20, an American Airlines Boeing 737 jet approached Cali, Colombia. In the transcript, the pilots of flight 965 are discussing work rules and their fatigue from international flight. Some words that were unintelligible to investigators are noted as asterisks.

Captain: I started to say, I wrote this little sheet out. I called tracking one day and I said, 'Hey, this (expletive) international is doing me, and I don't understand two-man crew, blah, blah, blah. It varies, two-man crew, three-man crew...' I said, 'I want you to spell out the legal rest,' and that's where I got this from, and I wrote it down very explicitly. Ten hours minimum crew rest.

First Officer: That's an international?

Captain: Yeah, if you fly less than 5 1/2 hours.

F.O.: Which this case...
 Captain: That's our scenario. Ten hours crew rest, 30-minute debrief, and one-hour sign-in. And you can't move that up at all, because it's an F.A.A. thing. You roll those wheels, before 11 1/2 hours, you're (expletive). Now, now, like I say, I can, I'll have, you know, grab a little extra half hour for us. We'll report a little bit late. Just give us a little extra sleep time. As long as we get the thing off at 9:50 so we don't get, get our (expletive) ***. Why the (expletive) didn't you report? To which I will say, 'The 34-minute (expletive) cab ride each way. I don't think we had enough legal safe time. Now, if you want to hang me on that, you hang me on that, but I didn't break any F.A.A. regulations.' Anyway, you know... The captain mentions a pilot friend who was often tired from flying international



A Colombian soldier in the wreckage near Cali; the pilots were lost.

routes, and then continues.
 Captain: He said he didn't mind it, he didn't mind driving back home at five o'clock in the morning. But to me, I'm like... it's torture.
 F.O.: Yeah.
 Captain: Torture in the (expletive) car, trying to keep awake and stay alive, uh-uh. I discussed this with my wife. I said, 'Honey, I just don't want to do this, I hope you don't feel like I'm ***.' She said, 'No way, forget it.' She said, 'You don't need to do that (expletive).' (sound similar to yawn)
 Over the next 15 minutes, the pilots become confused about instructions from air traffic controllers and make a series of small mistakes that are not corrected by the controllers, and lose track of their location. They reprogram the plane's flight computer to make a turn.
 F.O.: Uh, where are we? We goin' out to...
 Captain: Let's go right to, uh, Tulua first of all, O.K.?
 F.O.: Yeah, where we headed?
 They turn the plane to the right, but inexplicably allow the jet to keep losing altitude. A warning system tells them they are getting close to the ground.
 Captain: Oh, (expletive). Pull up, baby.
 F.O.: It's O.K.
 Captain: O.K., easy does it, easy does it. Up, baby... more, more.
 F.O.: O.K.
 Captain: Up, up, up.
 End of recording.
 The plane hit a mountain, killing 160 people on board. The investigation of the crash, which has not been concluded, has examined whether the pilots were lulled into complacency by the automated nature of the Boeing 737's cockpit.

Almost at Chicago: 'We Still Got Ice'
 On Oct. 31, 1994, an American Eagle turboprop was holding in icy weather at an altitude of about 10,000 feet, waiting for clearance to land in Chicago.
 Flight attendant: What do you all do up here when *** when autopiloting? Just hang out?
 First officer: You still gotta tell it what to do.
 Captain: If the autopilot didn't work, he'd be one busy little bee right now.
 F.O.: (sound of laughter)
 For the next 17 minutes, the pilots talk about adjusting the plane's flaps to level out

Approaching Pittsburgh: 'Whoa... Hang On'

On the afternoon of Sept. 8, 1994, a Boeing 737 flown by USAir approached Pittsburgh International Airport. The weather was good, and the pilots of flight 427 were expecting a routine descent and landing. The first sound on the recording from either pilot is, in fact, a yawn. They are at cruise altitude. Flight attendant in the cockpit: Do you know what I'm thinkin' about? Pretzels.
 Captain: Pretzels.
 F.A.: You guys need drinks here?
 Captain: Uh, I could use a glass of somethin', whatever's open. Water, uh, water, a juice.
 First Officer: I'll split a, yeah, a water, a juice, whatever's back there. I'll split one with 'im.
 F.A.: Okey-dokey. Do you want me to make you my special fruity juice cocktail?
 Captain: How fruity is it?
 F.O.: All right, I'll be a guinea pig.
 The pilots talk to air traffic controllers about reducing their speed. The flight attendant returns with the drinks.
 F.A.: If you don't like... I didn't taste 'em so I don't know if they came out right.
 Captain: That's good.
 F.O.: That is good.
 F.A.: It's good.
 F.O.: That is different. Be real, be real good with some dark rum in it.
 The pilots then talk with Pittsburgh controllers about their approach heading, and then talk more with the flight attendant about their juice drinks.
 Captain: It tastes like a ***.
 F.O.: Good.
 Captain: There's little grapefruit in it.
 F.A.: No. (sound of laughter.)
 F.O.: *** cranberry.
 F.A.: Yeah, you saw that from the color.
 Captain: How else is in it?
 F.O.: Uh, Sprite?
 F.A.: Diet Sprite.
 F.O.: Huh.
 F.A.: And I guess you could do it with Sprite. Prob'ly be a little better if you do.
 Captain: Yeah, there's more?
 F.A.: One more.
 F.O.: Ah, O.J.?
 F.A.: You got it. Cranberry, orange and Diet Sprite.
 F.O.: Really nice.
 F.A.: It's different. Could ya keep comin' out, aaah, whataya' got different and...
 Captain: I always mix the cranberry and the grapefruit. I like that. (sound of aural tone similar to altitude alert)
 F.A.: *** O.K., back to work.
 A controller tells the pilots to descend and maintain an altitude of 5,000 feet. They make some checks of landing data, shoulder harnesses and other matters. The first officer remarks, 'Oops, I didn't kiss 'em 'bye, and then tells passengers about weather conditions in Pittsburgh and thanks them for choosing USAir. The pilots slow the aircraft as they descend.
 Captain: Boy, they always slow you up so bad here.
 F.O.: That sun is gonna be just like it was takin' off in Cleveland yesterday, too. I'm just gonna close my eyes. (laughter) You holler when it looks like we're close. (laughter)
 Captain: O.K. (sounds follow that are similar to electrical clicks and thumps) Whoa... hang on... hang on... hang on...
 F.O.: Oh, (expletive).
 Captain: Hang on. What the hell is this... What the... oh, God... oh, God...
 F.O.: (expletive)
 Captain: Pull.
 F.O.: Oh, (expletive).
 Captain: Pull.
 F.O.: God. (sound of screaming) No.
 End of recording.
 The plane's rudder had moved, forcing the plane to skid to the left. The jet then rolled and went into a 300-mile-an-hour corkscrew plunge to the ground, killing all 132 people on board. The safety board has not yet determined what caused the crash.

Over Dallas-Fort Worth: 'Engine Failure'
 On Aug. 31, 1988, a Delta Air Lines Boeing 727 on the ground began taxiing to a runway at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. The excerpt begins just after air traffic controllers have told the pilots to head to a different runway.
 First Officer: What kinda birds are those?
 Captain: Egrets or whatever they call 'em.
 Flight attendant in the cockpit: Yeah, egrets.
 F.O.: Are they?



The American Eagle turboprop was holding near Chicago, waiting for clearance, in icy weather. The autopilot could not hold. The wreckage in Roselawn, Ind.

their angle of flying. They also discuss the rain, communicate with air traffic controllers, explain to passengers why they're in a holding pattern, then return to chatting. The captain says he needs to go back to the bathroom in the cabin.
 F.O.: They're gonna be giving you dirty looks, man.
 Captain: Oh, man, oh, yeah, I know they are. People do. It's either that or pee on 'em. (sound of flight attendant call bell, then of seat belt being unfastened)
 The audio recording system picks up the following from the cabin, where the flight attendant and captain talk about whether the aircraft has adequate fuel. The captain then calls the first officer in the cockpit.
 Captain: Hey, bro'.
 F.O.: Yeah.
 Captain: Gettin' busy with the ladies back here.
 F.O.: Oh.
 F.A.: (sound of snicker)
 Captain: Yeah, so if, so if I don't make it up there within the next say, 15 or 20 minutes, you know why.
 F.O.: O.K.
 Captain: O.K.
 F.O.: I'll, uh, when we get close to touchdown, I'll give you a ring.
 Captain: There you go...
 F.O.: ***
 Captain: No, I'll, I'll be up right now. There's somebody in the bathroom so ***.
 The captain returns and asks about the list of connecting flights for passengers.
 Captain: Where's the, uh, where's the connecting gates? Did we throw those away?
 F.O.: Uh, I didn't throw 'em away.
 Captain: How do you, how do you get connecting gates?
 F.O.: In range one.
 Captain: And you haven't heard any more from this chick in, this controller chick, huh?
 F.O.: No, not a word. Where'd it go anyway?
 Captain: I don't know. I must have thrown it away.
 F.O.: We still got ice.
 The pilots then talk with air traffic controllers about their altitude and how long they will have to hold. As they descend to 8,000 feet, the plane starts to tilt uncontrollably from side to side before nose-diving. Alert signals and horns sound in the cockpit, and the pilots are breathing heavily.
 Captain: All right, man. O.K., mellow it out.
 F.O.: O.K.
 Captain: Mellow it out.
 F.O.: O.K.
 Captain: Autopilot's disengaged.
 F.O.: O.K.
 Captain: Nice and easy.
 F.O.: Aw, ***.
 (loud crunching)
 End of recording.
 The plane plunged into a soybean field near Roselawn, Ind., killing all 68 aboard. Although the final report on the accident has not yet been released, investigators believe that the sensitivity of the aircraft, an ATR-72, to ice buildup on its wings created tilting forces that the autopilot compensated for until it could no longer hold. The autopilot disengaged in an instant, handing the pilot a plane that was out of control. All ATR aircraft wings have since been modified to better protect against ice buildup.

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At Dallas-Fort Worth, the Delta Boeing 727 crashed 22 seconds after liftoff.
 F.A.: I think so. Are they a cousin to the ones by the sea?
 Captain: I don't know, they... Whenever I mow grass out in my pasture they come in and it stirs up the grasshoppers and everything.
 Flight engineer: Boy, they just flock here.
 F.O.: I've seen them all over the place out around here.
 Captain: Grasshoppers?
 F.A.: Real ***.
 Captain: They, ah, in fact, they sit on the back of our horse now and then you see one out there just sittin' on the back of the horse.
 F.A.: Oh, is that right?
 F.O.: I've seen them sittin' on the back of a lot of cows.
 Captain: Yeah.
 F.A.: Are they the ones that pick the bugs off of them and stuff?
 Captain: I guess and they hang around them because while they're grazing, you know, they stir up the insects and they can get 'em easier.
 F.A.: Uh-huh. They're pretty birds.
 The four crew members talk about how the airport has improved in recent years, and then return to the topic of birds.
 Captain: Did you see that bird?
 F.A.: Yes.
 Captain: He got the jet blast.
 F.A.: Yeah, he did. He got it.
 F.O.: Ah, what a crash.

At Dallas-Fort Worth, the Delta Boeing 727 crashed 22 seconds after liftoff.
 F.A.: He said, 'What in the world was that?'
 F.O.: Ever go out to Midway and see the gooney birds? They're somethin' to watch.
 F.E.: They crash and look around to see if anybody saw 'em, you know.
 F.O.: Yeah. They would, they, you know, if you'd do a run-up, the flight would come up and do a run-up, and the gooney birds would be back there in the prop wash, just hangin' in the air, you know, and then they shut, pull, pull the power back, and then they'd just hit the ground, you know. They were hilarious. They'd send a truck out. You'd get ready to take off, they'd send a pickup truck out and they'd go move the birds off the runway so you could take off.
 F.A.: Oh, really. Oh, how funny. Where are they? Where was that?
 F.O.: Midway, Midway Island.
 F.A.: Midway Island.
 F.O.: They come back and they nest in exactly the same spot that they were born.
 F.A.: On the runway.
 The crew then prepares to take off, checking that various controls are set properly. As they take off:
 Captain: Somethin's wrong. Oooh.
 F.O.: Engine failure. We got an engine failure.
 Captain: We're not gonna make it. Full power.
 F.O.: ***
 (sounds of impact and screams)
 End of recording.
 The plane crashed 22 seconds after liftoff, killing 12 passengers and two flight attendants and seriously injuring 26 others; 68 passengers received minor injuries or were unhurt. The safety board said one cause of the crash was poor cockpit discipline, resulting in the crew trying to take off without properly setting the wing flaps.

At Dallas-Fort Worth, the Delta Boeing 727 crashed 22 seconds after liftoff.
 F.A.: He said, 'What in the world was that?'
 F.O.: Ever go out to Midway and see the gooney birds? They're somethin' to watch.
 F.E.: They crash and look around to see if anybody saw 'em, you know.
 F.O.: Yeah. They would, they, you know, if you'd do a run-up, the flight would come up and do a run-up, and the gooney birds would be back there in the prop wash, just hangin' in the air, you know, and then they shut, pull, pull the power back, and then they'd just hit the ground, you know. They were hilarious. They'd send a truck out. You'd get ready to take off, they'd send a pickup truck out and they'd go move the birds off the runway so you could take off.
 F.A.: Oh, really. Oh, how funny. Where are they? Where was that?
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مكتبة من الاصل

REVISED

The World

Warlords Ascend In Liberia's Ruins

By HOWARD W. FRENCH

SINCE freed American slaves first arrived to "settle" this steamy swampy land in 1822, there has been one constant in this country's tortured history: Liberia has always belonged, like so much real estate, to its boldest sons. Now in a renewed state of civil war, it waits for the strongest to assert themselves.

From the very start, the land of the free envisioned by Liberia's American founders never included the indigenous tribes who were displaced by firepower and subterfuge. And to cement their grip, the Americo-Liberians, as the newcomers were known, instituted a subtle version of apartheid that ended only in 1980. In that fateful year, 28-year-old Army Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe overthrew the hegemony of the American-descended ruling class, killing the President, William R. Tolbert.

If this class revenge after decades of deprivation and scorn was deeply satisfying for many indigenous Liberians, their pleasure would be brief. Soon enough, Mr. Doe's terror produced a sobering hangover: without its traditional elite, however selfish and corrupt, Liberia was ungovernable. Sitting amid the ruins of a country that once had one of West Africa's most developed economies, Liberians of every background craved a savior bold enough to topple their bloody and unschooled dictator.

Enter Charles Taylor, a ruthless descendant of the American settlers, who bribed his way out of a Massachusetts prison, where he was awaiting extradition to Liberia on embezzlement charges. In 1989 Mr. Taylor, promising national redemption, invaded from neighboring Ivory Coast. The following year Mr. Doe was captured and executed by a breakaway militia. With conflict splintering, the country was without any organizing

thought besides the raw, boundless ambitions of Mr. Taylor and his many rivals. Liberia's latest troubles, the resumption of a war in which the battlefield switched terrifyingly in the space of a weekend from the thick bush of the interior to the streets of the capital, were the logical next chapter.

The year before, a political agreement that made the warlords co-vice chairmen on a transitional ruling council last October provided the first real sense of hope the country had known since the Doe coup. The agreement, brokered by the 16-member Economic Community of West African States, also set up a timetable for elections. It may one day be seen as a textbook case of how not to settle an African civil war.

Liberia's peace pact effectively opened the gates of a relatively tranquil capital to the new vice chairmen and as many as 60,000 teen-age warriors before even beginning to tackle thorny questions like disarmament, re-education or employment.

"If only we could have mounted something economically, we could have drawn these fighters away from the militias and into some kind of productive activity for the first time in their lives," said one Western diplomat, who saw pledges of international aid evaporate with war. "Everything we were picking up indicated that people, starting with the fighters, were tired of the war, but we never got anything going."

Meanwhile, the 10,000-man West African peacekeeping force, weary after five years



In Monrovia, Liberia's capital, a young war refugee sits on a sewer pipe and eats bulgur wheat in the housing compound of the United States Embassy.

here, dropped its guard. Members of the Nigerian-led force saw deployment here as an opportunity for plunder. By the time the shooting broke out on Easter weekend, what had begun as a model of regional peacekeeping had degenerated into a contraband-running, shakedown operation where the least desirable jobs were those that had anything to do with keeping the peace.

The worst mistake in Liberia's return to chaos, however, may have been giving only three militia leaders, including Charles Taylor, seats in the new Council of State. Already disgruntled over the size of the piece of the cake reserved for them in the settlement, members of the Krahn ethnic group, a small but battle-hardened people who were the backbone of Mr. Doe's army, needed little persuasion to rally behind the latest bold leader pulling the oldest maneuver in Liberian politics: the naked power play.

Mutual Destruction

Persuasion came from Roosevelt Johnson, the leader of a breakaway faction of the United Liberation Movement. In February, Mr. Johnson, who was unhappy about not having been named to the council, attacked peacekeepers near Tubmanburg.

At the same time, the gardens of Mr. Johnson's suburban villa had become a recruiting center for hundreds of idle Krahn youngsters who flocked there advertising their one and only skill: trigger pulling.

What ensued was a conflagration that none of Liberia's many international partners, including influential Americans, were prepared for. Sensing a dangerous challenge just as his six-year bid for power was nearer than ever to bearing fruit, Mr. Taylor, whose forces had been infiltrating the capital faster than anyone else, issued a warrant for Mr. Johnson's arrest on specious murder charges.

In the space of two of the most destructive weeks in this country's long history, Mr. Taylor and the outside world learned that whatever the balance of power might be in the bush, warfare along tribal lines in Monrovia's close quarters is mutually assured destruction. With corpses rotting in the streets, cholera sweeping muddy urban refugee camps and little left of a badly looted city that once called itself the Manhattan of Africa, the only question seemed to be whether this ambiguous prospect would be enough to usher in some form of deterrence.

Now, Iran-Bosnia

Who Knew What and When?

By ELAINE SCIOLINO

IT'S an election year, so perhaps it should come as no surprise that, suddenly, the Clinton Administration has its very own scandal involving Iranian ayatollahs and secret arms shipments.

Obviously, the Republicans think so. They are planning no fewer than six Congressional hearings to investigate the legality and wisdom of President Clinton's unannounced decision in 1994 to do nothing to stop Croatia from sending Iranian arms into Bosnia.

Just by calling in the investigators, they are planting the familiar impression that there is something to be exposed — a flawed policy, an end-run around Congress, and perhaps even criminality.

But this episode isn't Iran-contr II. If there is a budding scandal here, so far it involves a failure to inform Congress of a decision it probably wouldn't have opposed anyway, the prospect that the White House will withhold documents and some sloppy handling of who knew what when.

Bob Dole, the President's challenger this year, has expressed shock: "It's duplicitous, to say the least," he said, "to tell us one thing while they're trying to covertly sort of wink and nod to the Iranians." He neglected to mention that in 1994 he was leading the charge in the Senate for lifting the arms embargo, and when reports surfaced of Iranian arms shipments, he did not object.

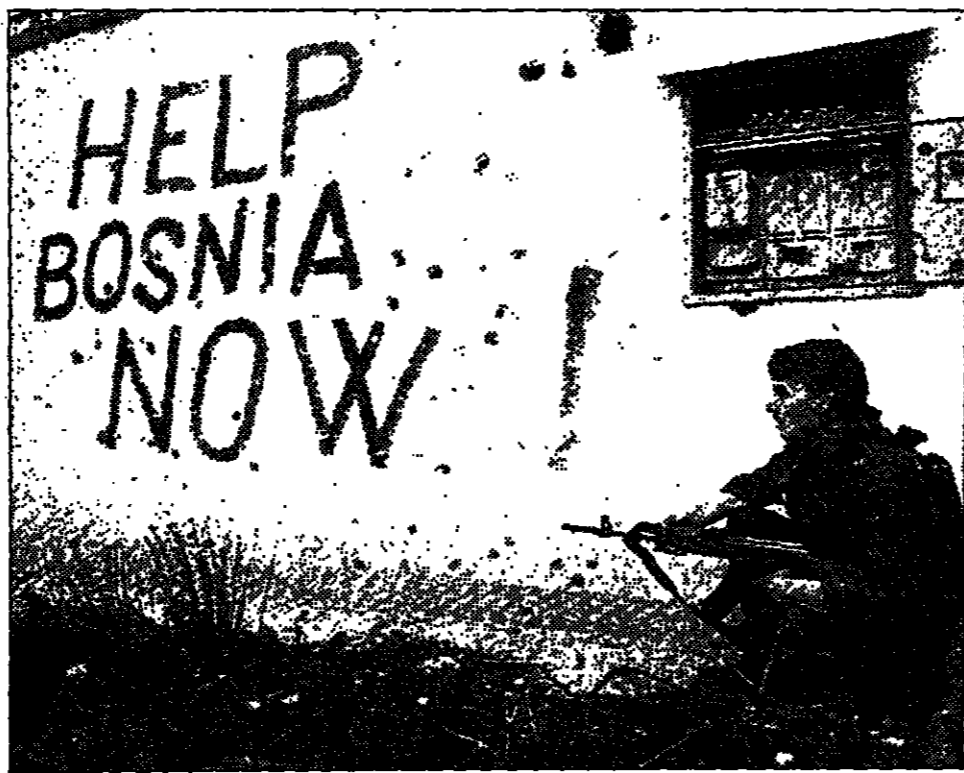
The Administration argues that Mr. Dole is posturing. Officials recall that news organizations reported that arms from Iran and other countries were arriving in Bosnia via Croatia and that reports on the shipments were in the daily classified intelligence reports that circulate throughout the Government.

What are the facts? In the spring of 1994 Bosnia's Muslims were under siege by the better-armed Serbs. The Administration (and Senator Dole) wanted to help the Muslim-led Government by lifting the United Nations-mandated arms embargo. But America's European allies, who had thousands of peacekeeping troops on the ground, vehemently opposed such a move. The Administration ruled out breaking the embargo on its own, arguing that this would tear NATO apart.

Didn't Ask, Didn't Tell

If Ronald Reagan had been in the White House, he might have ordered William Casey, his Director of Central Intelligence, to cook up a covert operation to send arms secretly, just as they had done in Nicaragua and Afghanistan.

But covert operations don't seem to be Mr. Clinton's style. This one would have tied the United States to the fate of the Bosnian Muslims and enraged the allies. Besides, Mr. Clinton had a poor relationship with James Woolsey, the Director of Central Intelligence, who would have had to carry



In 1993, Bosnian Muslim soldiers were fighting the Serbs despite the shortages of guns brought about by an arms embargo.

out any covert operation. By law, Congress would have had to have been informed. Inevitably, the operation would have leaked.

So Mr. Clinton came up with a watered-down alternative: covert inaction.

On Air Force One on April 27, 1994, while en route to Washington from Richard Nixon's funeral, the national security adviser, Anthony Lake, presented Mr. Clinton with a way he could give a green light to Iranian arms shipments. Croatia's President, Franjo Tudjman, was preparing to ask the United States what it would think about an Iranian smuggling operation, and Mr. Clinton decided not to oppose it.

So Peter Galbraith, the American Ambassador to Croatia, told Mr. Tudjman that he had "no instructions" about such a plan. A few days later, an Iranian 747 bearing arms arrived in Croatia. And then Congress passed legislation requiring the Administration to stop enforcing the arms embargo, so ignoring such arms shipments became official policy in late 1994.

Until two weeks ago, the Republicans in Congress weren't making any fuss over the fact that Iran helped Bosnia fight a war that the Administration and Congress wanted Bosnia to win. That all changed when the Los Angeles Times reported Mr. Clinton's personal involvement.

It may well turn out that the Administration did nothing illegal, but the episode still raises questions about how well it makes decisions. Why, for example, didn't Mr. Lake, the co-author of a 1984 book on flaws in how foreign policy gets made, ask for a formal National Security Council meeting

so that all the President's top advisers could be consulted? Mr. Woolsey, kept in the dark, assumed there was a rogue operation run outside the Central Intelligence Agency. White House officials acknowledge that Secretary of Defense William Perry and Gen. John Shalikashvili, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were not consulted in advance either. Mr. Perry, more than once, expressed concern about Iranian arms shipments, said a senior Pentagon official, though he never tried to get them stopped.

Mr. Christopher, by contrast, who has made economic and diplomatic sanctions against Iran a pillar of American foreign policy, formally recommended to the President that the United States not try to stop the shipments. "Warren Christopher told me that this was the way to go," said Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff.

Lawmakers may want to know whether Administration officials were completely honest about American policy. When Mr. Christopher was asked in Geneva about reports of the first Iranian 747 shipment, he replied, "The United States expects compliance with the embargo."

Fair or not, the Republicans will try to use the Iranian connection to tarnish the Clinton Administration's peace agreement in Bosnia, much as the Democrats went after George Bush's record as a war President by arguing that he had mistakenly tried to befriend Saddam Hussein before the Iraqi President invaded Kuwait. It may only be theater; it may only be politics. But the Iran episode certainly gives the Republicans one more opportunity for a show trial.

In Lebanon, the Gain So Far Is for Syria

Continued from page 1

sentiment has also surfaced, based on feelings that the Clinton Administration took far too long to express sympathy over the plight of Lebanon's civilian population.

"This war on Lebanon is an Israeli crime, and the Qana butchery is a premeditated war crime blessed and supported by the United States," wrote Abdelwahab Badrachan, one of the Arab world's best-read leftist columnists, in the daily Al Hayat. His tone could have been found as easily in a commentary by a rightist.

How long this will last is anybody's guess. The suddenness with which sympathy for Israel turned to vitriol is testimony to just how volatile the Middle East can be. Maybe the diplomats now in Syria have in their briefcases a package that can lure Mr. Assad into the role of active peace-maker — though they have been seeking that for years now, in vain.

It is also significant, in the Arab world, that the harsh judgment of Israel is what Hafez al-Assad has been saying all along. In recent years it had been falling increasingly on deaf ears in Egypt and elsewhere. But now Mr. Assad's intransigence, his stiffness and his seeming inability to let go of an implacable distrust of Israel seem more in accord with a deep Arab disappointment in the prospects for peace and the vision of it as expressed by Shimon

Arab anger at Israel echoes what Assad has said all along.

Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister whose election hopes now rest so heavily on restoring some measure of control over the violence his country is caught in.

From the Syrian point of view, perhaps Mr. Peres will now negotiate to get a cease-fire that would return matters to where they were two weeks ago. This would be a gain for Syria, because it has always sought a veto on the peace process, and giving Israel a cease-fire in Lebanon now becomes a prize to be conferred only in return for favors.

The alternative, it seems, would be to let Israel continue to wade deeper into the mud of Lebanon — the same quagmire that proved so disastrous more than a decade ago.

"Anwar Sadat always used to say he who gives can take away," an Egyptian policy maker said. "Sadat used this logic to make peace. Hafez Assad has elevated it to an art, to extract concessions."



U.N. peacekeepers used blankets to carry away the body of a victim killed by Israeli shelling near the village of Qana on Thursday.

Ideas & Trends

The Unwholesome Tale of the Herb Market

By GINA KOLATA

SOME people assume that what is natural is good for you, or at least harmless. That assumption, as it turns out, is a great marketing ploy but a dangerous motto for living.

So far, at least 15 people have died in the United States after taking herbal products containing ephedrine, also known as ephedra or ma huang. And yet, this herbal drug is still on the market along with other untested herbs and so-called food supplements, including vitamins, amino acids, melatonin and "natural" birth control pills from yams.

Hemlock Tea, Anyone?

Dr. Richard Friedman, a psychiatrist who directs the Psychopharmacology Clinic at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, wanted to test the limits on what kinds of herbs could be sold without approval from the Food and Drug Administration. So he called the F.D.A. "Suppose," he asked, "he wanted to sell hemlock tea, the deadly poison that Socrates drank. Would there be any way for the F.D.A. to stop him before his tea was on the shelves in health food stores and groceries across the nation? The answer was no. The F.D.A., he learned, "couldn't stop me from selling hemlock tea until the bodies piled up."

Why? There is a law that prevents the F.D.A. from regulating herbs and other food supplements. Less than three years ago, tens of thousands of Americans, responding to an intense lobbying campaign by the food supplement industry, wrote, faxed and telephoned members of Congress, urging them to deregulate the industry.

Mitchell Zeller, the deputy associate commissioner for policy at the F.D.A., who was, at the time, a Congressional staffer, said that Congress received more mail in 1993 urging it to deregulate supplements than it received on any other issue that year, including health care reform or NAFTA.

And Congress responded. In 1994, it passed the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act. As a consequence, makers of supplements no longer have to demonstrate that their products are safe before marketing them. The burden is on the F.D.A. to show they are unsafe — after they have



Herbal Ecstasy, a stimulant with ephedrine in it, on display in the windows of Loves Saves the Day, in Manhattan.

been marketed. The law also enables the companies to make unrestrained and unjustified health claims.

While Nassau County, N.Y., said last week it would ban the sale of stimulant herbs containing ephedrine, an amphetamine-like stimulant, other cities across the nation are still selling these herbs, with names like Cloud 9 (not to be confused with the health-food candy bar of the same name), Ultimate Xphoria and Herbal Ecstasy. Stores are marketing the herb as a "natural" substance to promote euphoria or increase energy. Under other names, the herb is sold to promote weight loss or as an aid for body builders.

One product marketed to body builders combined ephedrine with kola nut, Mr. Zeller said. "It was a combination of nature's version of speed and nature's version of caffeine," he said. And some people who took it had strokes, heart attacks and psychotic episodes. Some even died.

One of the recent ephedrine deaths was that of 20-year-old Long Island man, Peter Schindorf, who died shortly after taking eight Ultimate Xphoria pills while he was on spring break in Florida last month.

When the ephedrine casualty reports surfaced this month, the F.D.A. decided to set up a toll-free telephone number to solicit adverse reactions to the herbs. The first

day, the agency received 1,200 calls. Although some of the callers simply wanted more information about the herbs, many were alarmed by what had happened to them or to their friends.

The widespread shock about these deaths reflects two popular misconceptions of herbal products, experts said. First, said Dr. Friedman, there is the conviction that anything that is "natural" is also safe.

"There is a suspension of any critical disbelief," he said. By contrast, he added, many people view the pharmaceutical industry with great suspicion and search out supplements to replace prescription drugs. At the same time, many Americans are

unaware that the F.D.A. has no power to regulate food supplements. "Everyone alive today has come to expect that the products they buy are at least safe," said Dr. William Jarvis, director of the National Council Against Health Fraud. "They believe there is this powerful regulation going on. People are always talking about how the F.D.A. is such a hard-nosed Gestapo organization. They feel we're overprotected." But, he added, "of course, that's not true when it comes to health care products."

Not all dietary supplements are dangerous, of course. In many cases, the worst that happens is that people waste their money. Dr. David Eisenberg, director of the Center for Alternative Medicine Research at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, said, "I think that by and large the evidence is that many herbal products are safe."

"All have the potential to be dangerous," he said but added that "the same is true for conventional medicines and drugs."

The difference is that the risks of conventional drugs must be established before they are marketed. And their benefits must be shown to exceed their risks.

In the case of herbs and other food supplements, Dr. Jarvis said, even doctors may have trouble deciding whether a person's symptoms have anything to do with a supplement. "Information on some herbal drugs or on their interactions with prescription drugs may be obscure or unavailable," he said.

Prozac Plus Herb

Dr. Friedman tells a story about the dangers of herbs and the public's ignorance of them. One of his patients, an elderly woman, was taking drugs for manic depression. She went to a "natural" doctor, who gave her a drug to soothe her moods.

Dr. Friedman was concerned and called the other doctor, asking what he had given her. It was a herb from Romania. Dr. Friedman said that when he looked it up, "I almost died." In combination with the Prozac that his patient was taking, the herb could have killed her.

Dr. Friedman called the natural doctor and insisted he telephone the woman and urge her to stop the herb immediately.

The doctor who prescribed the herb wasn't incensed by the psychiatrist's intrusion. "He thanked me," Dr. Friedman said.

Unplugged: Not Everyone Is Wired

Continued from page 1

image of the Luddites, sometimes sets the tone for his anti-technology lectures by destroying a computer with a sledgehammer. He calls personal computers "a mounting intrusion." He calls television "stultifying junk." And, he says, he finds that increasing numbers of people share his politicized view of technology.

"More and more people are seeing their jobs being eliminated and their skills being devalued because of technology," said Mr. Sale, who shuns computers but owns a telephone and a car. "It's not Republicans or Democrats, Bush or Clinton. It's the technology."

For most people, though, technology decisions are based on practical considerations. Is it affordable? Is it easy to use? Is it an essential tool? Or, if not that, is it at least fashionable and fun?

Acquiring a personal computer is the initiation fee to join the technological club. Sales of computers to American households are expected to slow down this year, growing at 8 percent, after three years of growth in the 20- to 40 percent range, according to Dataquest, a research firm in San Jose, Calif.

Roughly one-third of American households have personal computers. And that is a lot for a relatively short period of time. After all, home computers only took off less than a decade ago. But analysts say that gaining ground from now on will be more difficult because so many affluent households already have personal computers and the less-affluent ones resist shelling out \$2,000 or more for a computer.

The Dataquest report, based on a survey of 10,000 households, estimated that two-thirds of all the personal computers sold to households are bought by those with incomes of \$40,000 or more. Yet census data show that only about one in three households have incomes of \$40,000 or more.

Unless prices drop drastically, some experts predict, the personal computer will be unlikely to find its way into more than 40 percent or 45 percent of American households.

A Computer in Every Pot

"The biggest misconception people have is this chicken-in-every-pot notion of the personal computer," said Mary Modahl, an analyst at Forrester Research Inc. in Cambridge, Mass. "It's not going to be like the telephone and the television. It's not going to be ubiquitous any time soon."

Today's technology changes so rapidly — some people are even talking about a \$500 Internet appliance — that any predictions about its future course must be tentative. Yet the trickle-down pattern already evident, with its potential to divide society into technological haves and have-nots, has raised concerns in Washington and elsewhere.

To address the issue, Congress included language in the recently enacted Telecommunications Act of 1996 that directs the Federal Communications Commission and the states to set rules requiring telephone and cable television companies to provide "universal access" to new services, like the Internet. After consulting with the industry and public-interest groups, the regulators are expected to mandate access and cut-rate service for schools and public libraries.

Public policy advocates are also pushing for inexpensive access to Internet services for residents in low-income neighborhoods and rural areas. The information highway, they say, has the potential to deliver everything from on-line literacy programs to health information to help poor families.

"But none of the promise of this new technology will come to pass unless the Internet is accessible to low-income communities as well as the wealthy," said Jeff Chester, executive director of the Center for Media Education, a nonprofit public policy group in Washington.

Wired Isn't Everything

Even those who are wired sometimes find that the whole experience falls short of its promise. Personal computers are now sold as if they were consumer appliances, but for many people they remain infuriatingly difficult machines to use. Telephones and televisions, after all, do not come with operating manuals that look like doorstops.

A survey of 1,000 home computer users, reported in the current issue of PC World magazine, said that 41 percent of the respondents found computer manuals "so confusing, they may as well be written in a foreign language." And 31 percent of the people surveyed said they spent more time trying to figure out how to use their computer than using it.

The number of people tapping into computer networks is growing rapidly. Eleven percent of American households subscribe to an on-line service. The largest of those services is America Online, and its membership has grown tenfold in the last two years to more than five million. Steve Case, the president of America Online, is fond of saying that more people now subscribe to his on-line service than to The Wall Street Journal, USA Today and The New York Times combined.

It sounds mighty impressive. But, apparently, many subscribers are just experimenting with the new medium, and then rarely using it. An estimated 60 percent of America Online's subscribers are on the service less than five hours a month. By contrast, the average American household has its television on for five hours a day.

For a medium that has set its sights on challenging television for consumers' time, the online world has a long way to go. As Gene DeRose, the president of Jupiter Communications, put it, "It's still too boring and too slow."

Who Has What

Percentage of households with each consumer electronic product in 1995.

Televisions	98%	
Home radios	98%	
Telephones (corded)	96%	
VCR's	88%	
Answering machines	60%	
Telephones (cordless)	59%	
Home CD players	48%	
Personal computers	40%	
Computer printers	34%	
Automobile alarms	25%	
Camcorders	23%	
Cellular telephones	21%	
Computers with CD-ROM	19%	
Modems	16%	
Caller ID devices	10%	
Home fax machines	8%	
Laserdisc players	2%	

Based on a survey by the Electronic Industries Association for the Consumer Electronics Manufacturers Association. In monthly surveys conducted randomly through 1995, a cumulative total of 25,000 adults were interviewed by telephone in all 50 states. Because each survey focused on different areas, the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The New York Times

Taking a P.C. To the Toilet



Jackie Mason

Suffice it to say that Jackie Mason is not so crazy about the new technology. This is excerpted from the comedian's one-man show on Broadway, "Love Thy Neighbor."

They tell you, "Oh, you have a computer — you can talk to people all over the world." People buy it. They buy it because of the publicity that you can talk to people all over the world. You can have 3,000 newspapers. You can have everything....

"Oh, I got a computer!"

"What do you do with it?"

"I don't know."

Imagine if the opposite was true. Imagine if everybody had a computer for \$3,000 and you were stuck by a table every time you had to learn anything or read anything... And all of a sudden somebody invented a whole new thing — a newspaper! You know what would happen? Everybody would say, "What an invention! A newspaper! For half a dollar you got the same thing!" Not only that, you can take it wherever you want to go. You can't take a computer to the toilet... You can take this wherever you want — wherever you want! The dog: he's about to go — do you get a computer underneath?

All the geniuses with computers love to tell you you can talk to people all over the world if you're on line. Who wants to? You want to talk to people all over the world? People don't talk to the guy next door... People are standing in an elevator — do you talk to anybody? A guy calls you up and he's got the wrong number — do you start a conversation? Do you ever say, "Sure glad you got the wrong number!" You're gonna holler, "You got the wrong number!" And God forbid he calls you again: you think he's a stalker, you call the police.

People are nuts, you know that?... They're crazy about computers... Last week a guy calls me: "I spoke to a guy from Siberia, a mountain climber from Siberia."... If a mountain climber from Siberia came over to your house and said, "Hello, I'm a mountain climber!" Would you say, "Come in, I'm dying to talk to you! All my life I wanted to talk to a mountain climber from Siberia! It's my greatest dream!"

It's the biggest fraud in the world. They also like to tell you you can make airline reservations all over the world. You ever see these nuts with the computers? "All over the world I can make airline reservations." The phone does the same thing — for a quarter you get the same information....

Did you ever notice that even they're computerized?... So now you have to press buttons for an hour... Press 1 if you want to fly now, press 2 if you want to fly later, press 3 if you want to fly alone, press 4 if you want to fly with your sister, press 5 if it's your brother, if you're meeting your brother-in-law press 2... if you want to press a pair of pants press 90... you're pressing and pressing for an hour and a half and then you miss the plane.

Photograph by Steve J. Sherman for The New York Times

ECONOMY

New Blood for Big Three

By ROBYN MEREDITH

WAYNE, Mich. — JUST over a year ago, Tammy M. Nedzweckas quit her \$10,000-a-year job as a restaurant cook and started working the night shift at a Ford Motor Company plant here, earning \$31,000 a year. Every minute and 15 seconds, she twists an air-conditioning valve cap on a Bronco or a pickup, slams the hood shut and clambers up behind the wheel to drive the truck around the corner. Then she hurries back on foot to tighten the next cap.

Almost overnight, Ms. Nedzweckas (pronounced nez-WES-cus) escaped the clutch of poverty-level wages and grabbed a piece of the American Dream: a better life for her two children. "I can afford to have my own house — I can afford to have a reliable car," she exults. When her daughter was born last year, she collected five months of paid maternity leave.

Ms. Nedzweckas, 29, figures she walks 21 miles by the time she leaves the Michigan Truck plant at 4:30 A.M., and soon many others may be walking in her shoes: For the first time in a quarter century, Detroit's Big Three auto makers are on a hiring spree. They are replacing a huge bubble of blue-collar workers who are reaching retirement age — people with strong backs who sweat on the production lines to lift their families into the middle class. But most of the new hires will have far more skills and schooling.

American auto makers will hire close to 170,000 factory workers in the United States by 2003, a study by the University of Michigan predicts. The jobs are coveted because they pay from \$25,500 to \$46,500 a year — and up to \$70,000 with overtime. And there are enough of them to carry nearly three-quarters of a million people, the workers' family members, out of poverty.

The number of job openings, staggering in itself because the three companies together employ just 443,000 blue-collar workers in the United States, is all the more remarkable considering the near-death of job opportunities in the industry in the 1980's and early 1990's. The General Motors Corporation, America's biggest company, went an entire decade without hiring a single production-line worker, before finally adding 4,000 in 1995. The once-troubled Chrysler Corporation, the No. 3 auto maker, began hiring again in 1991. Ford, which is No. 2, did little hiring from the early 1980's until mid-1992. Now, the same companies plan to take on more new employees in less than seven years than the combined work forces of the Hewlett-Packard Company, the Coca Cola Company and the MCI Communications Corporation.

For the nation's workers, Detroit's search for new blood is heartening news. As corporate America has re-

structured over the last 15 years, its employees have suffered one setback after another, from mass layoffs to the flight of jobs overseas to wage stagnation.

As those with little education find their job prospects dwindling, landing one of these 170,000 jobs could be like winning the lottery: almost their only chance to escape a life of poverty-level wages. But the hiring drive is more than just a gateway to middle-class prosperity for Ms. Nedzweckas and her co-workers. It is also shaping up as a golden opportunity for the auto industry to bring on a new breed of worker, for just as tail fins have given way to technology and modern management techniques, production lines — and the skills needed to staff them — have changed drastically.

The Big Three have learned from the foreign car makers that set up shop in the United States. They have borrowed Japanese management practices, which emphasize teamwork and job flexibility on the factory floor as a way to improve quality. And now that they are hiring again, they are putting quick minds ahead of strong bodies.

"At one point, we were hiring hands and arms and legs, and now we are hiring total people — with minds more important than the other," said Robert J. Eaton, chairman and chief executive of Chrysler. As a result, the Big Three are putting job applicants through a grueling selection process that emphasizes mental acuity and communication skills.

All three companies have contracted with HR Strategies Inc., a human-resources consulting firm in Detroit, to screen candidates. The firm checks their reading and math abilities, manual dexterity and understanding of spatial relations, said David P. Jones, president of the firm, a unit of the Aon Corporation of Chicago.

Those who jump that first hurdle are tested for drug use. Then, for about three hours, applicants are put in groups of four to six and given a task to complete while two or three consultants assess their ability to work together. The group might be given a diagram of an assembly line, along with the duties at each of its job stations, and be asked to discuss how the process could be improved.

Or the applicants might be asked to assemble a car part, like a headlight. Each would learn the various steps in the process, and then the team would spend up to an hour building the lamps. They would then talk about ways they could do it better. HR Strategies rejects 5 to 10 candidates for each one who makes it into a pool of workers that General Motors, Ford and Chrysler pick and choose from, Mr. Jones said.

"Clearly, we are looking for attitudes," said John F. Smith Jr., chairman and chief executive of G.M. "Today, we are operating with teams."

Such scrutiny is necessary be-

cause the nation's schools have declined even as factory jobs have grown more demanding. To help remedy that disparity, special programs have sprung up to train production-line job seekers. One of the most effective is run for inner-city youths in Detroit by a nonprofit group called Focus: Hope.

Those who sign up, many of them high-school dropouts, spend weeks taking crash courses in algebra, geometry, manufacturing theory and computer programming, then learning how to operate the computer-run metal-cutting machines found these days on factory floors. More than 1,000 students completed the 31-week program last year, and virtually all landed a job with the Big Three or one of the manufacturing companies that supplies them parts.

That prize is worth fighting for. Jallon L. Kendricks, 23, just finished the course. Her last class took place a day before she gave birth to a daughter, but her pregnancy didn't stop her from getting up at 6 every morning and driving 45 minutes across town to attend the classes.

Ms. Kendricks, who said she had weak math skills when she started, spent two and a half years in college studying criminal law. Yet she found that was only enough to get her a job as a supermarket cashier making \$11,900 a year. Now she can hope to leap to a Big Three production line job that pays three times that much. "It is so hard to get into the Big Three," Ms. Kendricks said during a recent break from classes. "You really have to have some kind of training to do anything — even a high school diploma isn't good enough anymore."

Management has high expectations of those who make the final cut. Charles A. Guastella, 25, was hired last June at about \$15 an hour to fill in for absent workers on the production line at the Ford plant next door, Wayne Stamping and Assembly. "I've got a different job every day," he explained.

He has installed steering wheels and balanced tires. His most recent task took a couple of days to master: He guided the awkward movements of the robotic arm that lifts doors onto Ford Escorts and Mercury Tracers as they come down the line. Push the wrong button and a door costing several hundred dollars clatters to the factory floor. A generation ago, Mr. Guastella's predecessors slung the doors into place with their own muscle power.

As varied as his work is, Mr. Guastella isn't content to do it forever. Even though he has landed a job with better pay than the \$25,000 a year the average recent college graduate earns, he is studying part time so he can eventually move into management.

Workers say their new responsibilities are a welcome change from the mind-numbing routines of previous years. John M. Davis, 44, recalls how 25 years ago he would hoist 68-

Hourly Workers at the Big Three: Facts and Figures

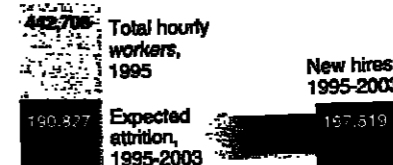
	1985	1995	Change
Total workers	623,133	442,708	-180,425 -29%
Average age	41.9	45.1	+3.2
Average years of service	15.3	19.4	+4.1
Workers with 30 years*	40,560	39,887	-673
Percent of work force	6.5%	9.0%	

*Big Three hourly workers can generally retire with full benefits after 30 years of service.

Source: Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation, University of Michigan

Still Opportunities

Even with their work force expected to shrink by 23,000, the Big Three will have added 167,819 workers by 2003.



pound bumpers and help two other men bolt them onto Ford LTD's and Country Squire station wagons, 336 times a day. He weighed 168 pounds the day he was hired, he said, but added so much muscle that he bulked up to 190 pounds in six months.

In those days, the mood on the factory floor "was us against management," he said. That was because, he added, "if you come to work every day and you don't have a say in the way it is set up, you'll say, 'I'll show them, I'll let these cars kind of slide down the line.'"

But that sort of resentment has mostly melted away since Ford "started listening to hourly employees," Mr. Davis said. Now, robots do the heavy lifting, and many workers must know how to operate the machines. Others might learn several tasks — how to install seats, carpets, windshields and headlights, for instance. Some production line workers program giant computer-run machines that precisely slice and dice metal car pieces. That has transformed the blue-collar jobs.

"Machines have taken the place of the difficult labor of the past," so fewer unskilled workers are now needed, said Mr. Smith, the G.M. chairman.

Mr. Davis finds his job more satisfying these days. He is now a tinsmith at Wayne Stamping, where he operates sheet-metal-cutting machines to make parts and equipment for the factory. "It is something different every day," he said. "It is a little more challenging." As a skilled laborer, he earns base wages of about \$47,000 a year that can jump to \$70,000 a year, or more, with overtime — enough to put his daughter through law school and leave him money to play some golf.

Another longtime worker paints a stark contrast between the factories of yesterday and the plants of tomorrow. Twenty-three years ago, it was usually a breeze to get hired by the Big Three. Rainer Bell said all he had to do to win a job at the Wayne plant was to stand in line with other job seekers, sit through a 15-minute interview and pass a physical.

His first job was installing parking brakes in 1974 Ford Mavericks. He would sit on the door opening, pull hard with his pliers to catch a wire

from the brake and hook it to the car. He performed the same simple procedure 45 times an hour for four years, going home so exhausted that he almost always went straight to bed.

Today, he is still an hourly wage earner, but his factory has entered the modern world of worker empowerment. Mr. Bell works in a team, not by himself, and his assignment is to help solve problems, not move metal.

Recently, his group heard complaints from customers that the small back-seat windows of Ford Escorts popped open on their own. He discussed it with the window installer, trying to trace the cause. Within three weeks, after the worker was given an inexpensive contraption that helped to hold the glass, the problem was fixed. That saved the company the cost of repairing the windows of thousands of Escorts down the road, and saved their buyers frustration.

Two decades ago, there were no trouble-shooters among the Big Three's factory workers. Mr. Bell's new job description is just one of many changes since then, and it illustrates how blue-collar jobs are taking on a white-collar tinge. Starting wages outstrip beginning salaries for the companies' secretaries, which at Ford are \$22,000, and surpass the \$25,000 a year earned by the average recent college graduate.

Indeed, as production-line workers spend more time running sophisticated machines and suggesting ways to help business, the combination of high wages and new responsibilities is attracting better-educated workers. At Ford, for example, 4.5 percent of those hired since mid-1992 have college degrees, compared with just 1.2 percent of those hired before 1987. Of G.M.'s 4,000 hires last year, 40 percent had taken some college courses.

The emphasis on education reflects a national obsession with upgrading worker skills in an increasingly competitive global market. These days, a lack of education often means a dead-end career of flipping hamburgers at McDonald's at \$4.25 an hour. Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich recently sounded an alarm about the danger of America's predominantly middle-class society splitting into an educated elite and the uneducated poor.

"People who don't have high school degrees are falling off the charts — they are falling off the cliffs," Mr. Reich warned. "Their wages are plummeting. Their benefits are disappearing."

The Big Three's new wave of workers will have a somewhat different look from previous generations. With more years of schooling behind them, the new hires will be a bit older, with their average age in the early 20's, compared with the late teens of a quarter-century ago, said David E. Cole, director of the Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation at the University of Michigan and an author of the university's study of projected Big Three hiring.

And because most jobs are less physically strenuous, more women will probably pass the physicals. It is unclear whether members of minority groups will come out ahead in the hiring. Mr. Cole said, because many inner-city schools, as well as rural schools, may not be doing as good a job as their suburban counterparts of preparing students for the jobs.

G.M.'s hires last year were markedly different from the members of its current factory work force. About a third were women, compared with 18 percent over all. Minorities made small gains, accounting for about a quarter of those hired, up from 23 percent of the current blue-collar work force.

All three American companies are

following the example set by the Honda Motor Company when it started producing cars in the United States in 1978. Honda carefully screened job applicants. Beyond just requiring them to have a high school education, it tested them to make sure that they could read the computer printouts detailing which features were to be installed in each car and that they could understand graphs illustrating quality shortcomings that were to be eliminated, said Joyce M. Kowal, Honda's manager of personnel services.

The success of the Japanese in turning out high-quality cars from American factories demolished the myth that the lemons that came out of Big Three plants were the fault of lazy or incompetent American workers. And thus it forced the American auto industry to re-examine its management philosophy and adopt theories that gave production-line workers more responsibility.

The result was a much more efficient industry and a higher-quality product, culminating in today's hiring blitz. For Mr. Cole, the University of Michigan specialist, the turnaround is evidence that any American industry threatened by foreign competition can reinvent itself. "We have the capability to resurrect what seemed to be an over-the-hill industry and turn it into high-tech, knowledge-based" companies, he said.

Former union officials praise the Big Three's change of heart toward workers. "It eases the tensions that we used to have," said Douglas A. Fraser, the former United Automobile Workers union president who now teaches labor studies at Wayne State University in Detroit. "You get accustomed to solving small problems, it makes it easier to solve big ones." Current U.A.W. officials refused repeated requests for comment.

But the new openness also poses a challenge to organized labor. Mr. Cole said the workers now closing in on retirement are among the U.A.W.'s most militant. As younger, more independent-minded workers are hired, he said, the U.A.W. "is going to be shaken to its very foundation by this transformation."

Mr. Fraser agreed that new U.A.W. members were likely to be more independent. "The workers raise more questions with the union as well as with management," he said. In the past, union members more quickly followed the lead of union officials, he said. "If you say we're going to run into the wall at noon tomorrow, they wouldn't ask you why, they would just do it," Mr. Fraser said. Management was viewed as the enemy: "It was us against them," he added.

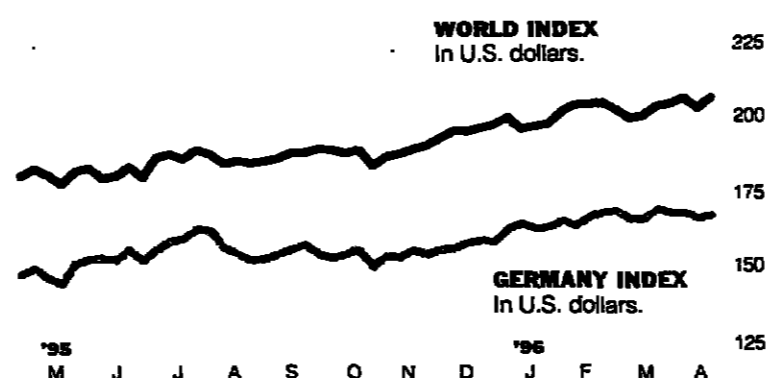
Still, Mr. Fraser thinks the new members' self-reliant attitude offers an opportunity for the union to strengthen the rank and file's allegiance. "If you can convince a member intellectually, then you've got a stronger union member," he said.

Mr. Bell, the Ford trouble-shooter, cares less about the broad implications of the hiring boom and more about what it means to his seven children. He said the high school diploma he earned wouldn't be enough to get ahead in the competitive 1990's, and he is determined to get his six sons and his daughter into college. The oldest three already attend.

"With the education that I have, there is no way that I should be making this amount of money," said Mr. Bell, who earned nearly \$40,000 last year. If he were looking for a job today, he said, he knows how he would fare. "I would be a dishwasher somewhere," he said.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Country	PERFORMANCE				IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURR.			
	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	YTD Dividend Yield	Index	YTD % Chg.	Index	YTD % Chg.	YTD Dividend Yield	
Australia	203.30	-0.3	25	7.0	13	3.99	172.89	1.8				
Austria	186.90	2.3	9	7.1	11	1.92	146.16	12.6				
Belgium	210.26	0.6	21	0.5	24	4.13	180.49	5.7				
Brazil	155.44	1.0	16	12.7	3	1.41	283.56	14.9				
Britain	237.43	2.3	6	3.0	22	3.95	231.93	5.4				
Canada	160.41	0.6	20	8.1	9	2.37	158.24	7.9				
Denmark	297.57	0.8	15	3.0	21	1.91	235.08	8.0				
Finland	131.45	3.2	4	-3.0	26	2.74	181.00	6.2				
France	196.05	1.0	17	9.3	7	3.05	157.12	14.2				
Germany	172.14	0.4	22	5.2	17	1.84	134.75	10.6				
Hong Kong	426.57	-0.2	24	10.0	5	3.33	423.61	10.1				
Ireland	277.20	4.7	2	8.5	8	3.33	249.04	10.9				
Italy	77.64	2.5	8	5.3	16	2.14	90.93	4.1				
Japan	157.28	1.9	11	1.6	23	0.71	106.41	5.3				
Malaysia	573.34	3.1	5	18.2	2	1.58	551.15	16.2				
Mexico	1,213.61	5.8	1	26.8	1	1.28	1,064.10	22.0				
Netherlands	289.72	-0.1	23	6.2	15	3.17	222.72	11.6				
New Zealand	80.46	1.8	12	3.5	19	4.28	63.80	-1.4				
Norway	247.31	1.3	15	6.9	14	2.38	217.96	9.9				
Singapore	445.16	0.6	19	9.3	6	1.31	288.94	8.8				
South Africa	374.12	2.1	10	-2.9	25	2.06	348.96	13.7				
Spain	177.97	3.2	3	7.7	10	3.28	169.07	11.4				
Sweden	344.30	2.7	7	10.5	4	2.33	341.89	11.7				
Switzerland	343.40	1.6	13	3.1	20	1.54	184.45	9.6				
Thailand	182.06	-1.8	26	7.0	12	1.85	176.63	7.4				
United States	325.11	1.4	14	4.7	18	2.20	263.11	4.7				



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the FT Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and NatWest Securities Ltd. in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries.

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1996 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and NatWest Securities Ltd.

Exchange rates	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	107.36	108.72	-1.25	82.72
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.5120	1.5045	+0.50	1.3690
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3620	1.3565	+0.41	1.3720
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.5140	1.5140	0.00	1.6125

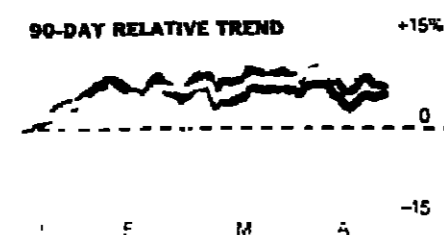
Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets, exchange rates as of Friday's New York close

UPS AND DOWNS

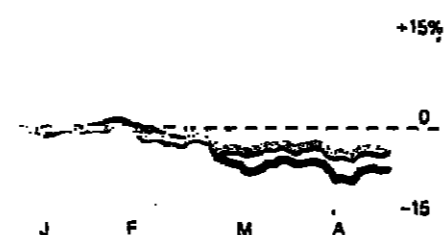
April 15-19: Bond Yields Down, Stocks Up Slightly on Slow-Growth Expectations

PRICES

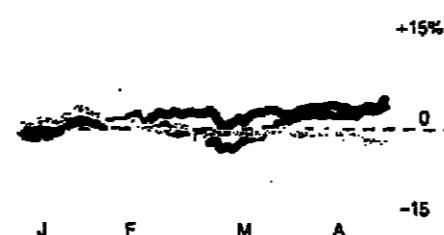
DOMESTIC EQUITIES	
Broad market	Up 1.31%
S & P 500 index	645.07
Blue chips	Up 0.05%
Dow 30 industrials	5,535.48
Small capitalization	Up 2.21%
Russell 2000 index	338.51



DOMESTIC BONDS	
Treasuries	Up 0.16%
Ryan Labs Total Return	185.29
Municipals	Up 0.69%
Bond Buyer index	113.25
Corporates	Up 0.16%
Merrill Lynch Master index	795.11



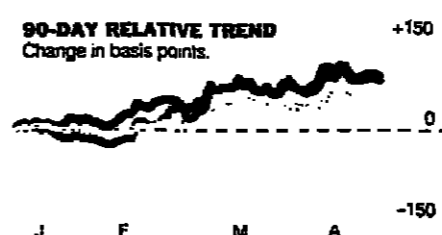
AROUND THE WORLD	
European stocks	Up 1.80%
FT-Actuaries Europe	210.70
Asian stocks*	Up 1.66%
FT-Actuaries Pacific Basin	170.41
Gold	Down 1.01%
New York cash price	\$390.60



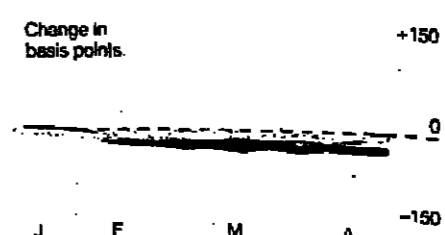
YIELDS

BONDS	
Long bonds	6.78%
30-year Treasuries	Down 1 basis pt.
Short bonds	5.92%
2-year Treasuries	Unchanged
Municipals	6.04%
Bond Buyer index	Down 4 basis pts.

100 basis points = 1 percentage point



OTHER INVESTMENTS	
Money market funds	4.76%
Taxable average	Unchanged
Bank C.D.'s	4.81%
1-year small savers	Up 3 basis pts.
Stocks	2.24%
S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Down 2 b.p.



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Sour Spring for Mr. Dole

The return of Congress after its spring recess was planned by Republicans as a season made for the leadership talents of Bob Dole. But it has not worked out that way. Instead of running the Senate like a fine machine, churning out legislative accomplishments, Mr. Dole stumbled last week through a series of fiascos that betrayed confusion and uncertainty about the direction he intends to lead his party and, if elected, the country.

If Mr. Dole's Presidential campaign is to get off the ground, he is going to have to lift his sights and deliver both a broad sense of direction and a commitment to practical results, even if that means standing up to the conservatives among his allies.

The biggest embarrassment to Mr. Dole came when the Senate rebuffed his attempt to lead health insurance reform with measures desired by conservatives but certain to provoke a Presidential veto. Five Republicans joined with the Democrats to defeat the amendment, clearing the way for Senate approval of a clean bill to make health coverage portable for employees who lose their jobs. The health reform commanded broad bipartisan support as a modest attempt to address American anxiety in this era of corporate downsizing. A true sign of leadership would have been to reject the addition for medical savings accounts, which favor healthy people who are also better off economically.

Mr. Dole has also bungled his party's opposition to raising the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15, which appears to have enough support from Republicans to pass in both the House and the Senate. Angered by Democratic attempts to force a vote on the minimum wage and Social Security changes, he abruptly yanked from the Senate floor an immigration bill that also commands bipartisan support. Instead of demonstrating his control over the Senate, his actions showed that he did not know how to handle a rebellious Democratic minority that learned its guerrilla tactics aimed at embarrassing the leadership from the Republicans when they were in the minority.

This was also supposed to be a time for Mr.

Dole to display his foreign policy maturity with a speech outlining his position on China. But he seems well on his way to equating President Clinton's own record of unfortunate vacillation on that issue. There was the odd spectacle of Mr. Dole conferring with President Bush, who announced that it was important to renew China's favorable trade status despite its human rights and nuclear proliferation record. Mr. Dole has long embraced that view, but after the meeting he announced that he was rethinking his position. The exercise did not strengthen confidence in Mr. Dole as a man of conviction.

Against the heavy themes and emotions of Mr. Clinton, Mr. Dole has long described himself as "a doer, not a talker." Between now and the Republican convention in August, he may have little choice but to spend much if not most of his time in the Senate, since his campaign has run low on funds and he does not receive the next installment of Federal subsidies until after the convention. There is also now clearly a debate in both Mr. Dole's and Mr. Clinton's campaigns over how much value would be derived by both from a grand compromise on the Federal budget, the one big issue Americans seem to care about most.

Mr. Clinton says he wants a budget compromise but will not gut welfare, Medicaid and Medicare to achieve it. Now that Mr. Dole has defeated Phil Gramm and Patrick Buchanan, he has less to lose within his party by pushing it to compromise with the White House on budget issues, including modest cuts in these entitlements. We have argued that both sides would have a lot to gain from a compromise, since they are close in the amount they want to save. For Mr. Dole, accepting measures that may fall short of the radical agenda of conservative Republicans he once courted for the nomination would bring real progress in the drive to balance the budget.

The financial markets would be cheered and both Mr. Dole and Mr. Clinton could be doers as well as talkers. Right now, Mr. Dole seems to be neither.

Stonewalling on Iran

When the Clinton Administration secretly approved Iranian arming of Bosnia in violation of a United Nations embargo two years ago, it made a policy blunder and slighted its constitutional responsibility to keep Congress and the American people informed. Now it compounds the offense by suppressing the report of a White House agency that investigated the legality of the episode.

Congress, quite properly, wants to know more about this whole matter, and the White House should make every effort to cooperate instead of withholding information. There are diplomatic and intelligence aspects to the case that need public examination. Congress, for its part, should provide a streamlined review mechanism, perhaps joint hearings by the foreign relations and intelligence committees in the Senate and House.

Early in 1994, Croatia's President asked American diplomats if the United States would have any objections to Iran's shipping small arms through Croatia to Bosnia. The Bosnian Government, its cities under Serbian attack, was prohibited from buying arms by a U.N. arms embargo that the United States opposed, but promised to respect.

Mr. Clinton, wanting to help Bosnia without openly violating the embargo, secretly conveyed his approval, while insisting to Congress that the embargo had to be respected to protect allied peacekeepers. Mr. Clinton's decision helped Iran gain a foothold in Bosnia.

Within days of Mr. Clinton's secret decision, Iranian arms were visibly flowing toward Bosnia,

with Iran Air planes unloading weapons in Zagreb under Croatian military guard. The Central Intelligence Agency reported on the traffic and Congress was briefed on it, but the Clinton Administration did not disclose that it had approved the assistance.

The law requires the White House to notify Congressional intelligence committees of any covert operation meant "to influence political, economic or military conditions abroad, where it is intended that the role of the United States will not be apparent or acknowledged publicly."

The Administration claims that the law does not apply in this case because the United States played only a passive role in the Iranian arms shipments. But even the accuracy of that assertion is in doubt. There are indications that American diplomats helped clear passage for convoys containing the Iranian arms through Croatia to Bosnia, though they may not have specifically known weapons were aboard.

The C.I.A.'s discovery of the arms shipments led to an investigation by the White House Intelligence Advisory Board to determine whether any laws had been violated. That report apparently found no illegality. But the Administration will not make the report public or allow the board's chairman, Anthony Harrington, to testify about its contents under oath.

White House stonewalling is the surest way to provoke an extended Congressional inquiry and to make the Iran arms an issue in the Presidential campaign. Full disclosure is the wiser course.

Mr. Vallone's Faux Term Limits

The New York City Council Speaker, Peter Vallone, announced last week that he was willing to accept upcoming term limits for himself and his members — as long as the Council could iron out a few bugs in the system. Unfortunately, according to Mr. Vallone's timetable, the bugs will not be eradicated until around 2010.

A politician who supports a term limit law that does not kick in for well over a decade is like a judge who sentences a prisoner to be executed 50 years down the line. The Council has been searching for a way to cancel the results of a citywide term limit referendum. Its leaders now admit that there is no way to persuade the voters to repeal their decision. Instead, they are hoping to settle for personal exemptions.

In 1993, the voters approved an eight-year term limit for all city officials. That means everyone elected that year must retire at the end of 2001, including virtually the entire 51-member Council. A near-complete turnover like that, Mr. Vallone says, would cause "absolute chaos."

A totally inexperienced City Council is indeed undesirable. That is one reason this page opposed term limits from the start. A Council without experienced leaders would probably be relatively powerless, undoing all of Mr. Vallone's efforts to make it a more effective branch of government.

But the Speaker's solution is transparently self-serving. He wants to put a new referendum on the ballot in November, requiring the next redistricting

commission to come up with a plan for staggered Council terms, and would postpone the term limits law until that plan went into effect.

The catch is that the next redistricting commission will not be created until after the 2000 census. Elected officials would then get to run in two more elections, allowing some incumbents to remain in office until 2008 or 2010.

Keeping the present City Council until this year's newborns enter high school is not what New York voters had in mind when they endorsed term limits by 59 percent to 41 percent. While many critics, including this page, believe term limits are a faulty remedy for unrepresentative government, they are less troublesome than doing an end-run around the results of a city referendum.

The City Council believed — incorrectly — that it could avert the original term limit referendum through court challenges. As a result, the issue was never really debated in 1993. The Council would certainly be within its rights to call for another vote so the issue could be discussed more fully, or to ask the public to extend the City Council term limits to a more reasonable 12 years.

But if Mr. Vallone is worried about continuity, he should come up with a plan now for staggered terms, and ask the voters to approve it this November. If that task is beyond the Council, the city will have to accept whatever confusion comes with abiding by the public's original directive.

Woe if Chinese Turn Energy Gluttons Like Us

To the Editor:

Re Thomas L. Friedman's "Gardening With Beijing" (column, April 17): It seems that President Clinton is aware of the environmental dangers of a modernized China. If a billion Chinese become as energy-profligate as the average American, the world's finite energy reserves will decrease at a more frightening rate than they do now, and the products of their consumption will poison the atmosphere.

There is a corollary to this idea that Mr. Friedman bypasses. Our leaders on the right and the left invoke "growth" as the solution to our economic difficulties. However, a significant aspect of growth is the sale of manufactured goods abroad that consume energy. The solution to one of our pressing problems thus has a depressing downside. If the free-market gurus have a way out of this dilemma, I would like to know what it is.

CHARLES R. COWLEY
Ann Arbor, Mich., April 17, 1996

mileage standards have been in force for 20 years; their effect has been to increase vehicle miles traveled and to increase car numbers in excess of the rate of human population increase.

Gasoline consumption has increased steadily since these standards were imposed because the standards have tended to reduce the cost of fuel.

The United States has almost 40 percent of the world's automobiles and trucks. They consume 20 percent of the world's oil supply and produce a disproportionate share of greenhouse gases.

There is much that should be done. Legislation should be sponsored to remove driver's subsidies. Property and sales tax yields should be sequestered so that they could be used only for the legitimate needs of local government — not for traffic signals, traffic officers, accidents, repair and

David Sauer

maintenance of roads and highways. These costs should be paid by drivers.

STANLEY HART
Altadena, Calif., April 17, 1996

'Trickle-Down Liberty'

To the Editor:

"Commerce and Diplomacy" (editorial, April 13) rightly points out the inadequacies of the Clinton Administration's "commercial diplomacy" policy of promoting American trade and investment in the hope that democracy will follow.

The "trickle-down liberty" policy has not only failed to achieve results, it has also produced the opposite effect.

With China, the policy has allowed an increase in human rights abuses. That judgment is based on the State Department's recent reports of Chinese human rights abuses.

More embarrassing is the policy's failure as a job-creation strategy. While executives from Boeing, Chevron and AT&T are escorted by United States officials to expand their markets, back at corporate headquarters, preparations are made to reduce workers' salaries, benefits and job security, or simply to cast them off.

Tens of thousands of high-paying, high-skill American jobs have been threatened or eliminated. Winning foreign contracts and promoting United States exports does not necessarily translate into more jobs and a higher standard of living for Americans.

VICTOR MENOZZI
Program Coordinator, International Forum on Globalization
San Francisco, April 17, 1996

To the Editor:

Thomas L. Friedman (column, April 17) quotes President Clinton as saying to President Jiang Zemin of China: "The greatest threat to our security that you present is that all of your people will want to get rich in exactly the same way we got rich. And unless we try to triple the automobile mileage and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, if you all get rich in that way we won't be breathing very well."

Exactly, except that tripling the gasoline mileage is a misleading goal. The Government's corporate average fuel efficiency (CAFE)



Ethanol's Value Wins Bipartisan Support

To the Editor:

As the president of the trade association representing 45,000 workers in 53 ethanol plants across the country, I take issue with your April 16 front-page article on Senator Bob Dole's support for ethanol subsidies.

You state that "for years, Government studies have questioned ethanol's value," and cite a 1986 Department of Agriculture report as evidence. But that report has since been repudiated by the agency, and more recent studies have promoted the economic and energy benefits of the ethanol incentive program.

For example, a 1995 Department of Agriculture study concluded that the ethanol program increases net farm income more than \$700 million annually. Another 1995 study determined that "the production of ethanol yields 25 percent more energy than is used in growing the corn, harvesting it and distilling it into ethanol."

With regard to the environmental effects of ethanol, you cite only a Congressional Budget Office report, which was neither intended nor able to provide policy guidance on air quality issues. Ethanol adds oxygen to gasoline, which reduces exhaust emissions of ozone-forming carbon monoxide. Because ethanol adds octane to gasoline, it also reduces the use of toxic, petroleum-derived octane.

The support for ethanol is bipartisan. The reason is that public policy makers have gained an appreciation for its benefits.

ERIC VAUGHN
Pres., Renewable Fuels Assn.
Washington, April 18, 1996

energy than the amount required to produce it. However, it is more efficient and environmentally sustainable to make ethanol from cellulosic crops like grasses and trees.

Until recently, this was difficult to do. But the discovery of special enzymes, yeasts and bacteria, combined with the development of more efficient operating processes, means that in the near future it should be possible to produce ethanol from cellulosic biomass commercially.

As measured by the criteria called "energy balance," or the ratio of energy produced to energy used, corn is probably only just over 1, meaning the benefits are relatively small, although with best practices it can range up to 1.5. The fossil energy balance for ethanol from "power crops" is much better, probably between 4 and 5, and for producing electricity from power crops it is even greater, perhaps 10 or more.

Blindly subsidizing agriculturally produced ethanol is a questionable practice. However, directed subsidies to help the industry move away from corn and toward cellulosic biomass would be more environmentally sound.

DIANA L. SYLVESTER
San Francisco, April 18, 1996

Habeas Revision Is Just and Reasonable

To the Editor:

Re "Wrong Way to Recall the Bombing" (editorial, April 18): The majority of this nation's prosecutors would disagree with your contention that antiterrorism legislation heading for President Clinton's desk "is not primarily aimed at terrorists but at shredding the doctrine of habeas corpus."

The habeas reform section, the heart and soul of the antiterrorism legislation, would not deprive any prisoner of the right to a habeas appeal.

It simply would place some reasonable limits on the exercise of that right and end the present charade in which many death-row prisoners have evaded imposition of their justly imposed punishment for up to a dozen years or more. How long should victims' families have to wait for the final chapter in their agony?

Habeas reform aims to insert some reasonable limits on the number and time for appeals in such cases.

MICHAEL P. BARNES
South Bend, Ind., April 18, 1996
The writer is president of the National District Attorneys Association.

How to Achieve Remembrance of Holocaust

To the Editor:

Re Clyde Haberman's April 16 column on debate over the growing number of Holocaust museums: As a Holocaust survivor, I believe that memory is short-lived without a context. The next generation cannot understand the Jewish meaning of Shoah without an appreciation of the culture the Nazis sought to destroy.

It is heartening that the Living Memorial to the Holocaust-Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City will tell a more complete story about the Jewish people. It is to be hoped that visitors will come away knowing not only about Hitler but also Hillel, not only Mengele but also Maimonides, and not only Bormann but also Bialik.

FANYA G. HELLER
New York, April 17, 1996

Re Clyde Haberman's April 16 column on debate over Holocaust museums: We who know the importance of teaching the lessons of the Holocaust often forget to distinguish between remembering this event and the ways we learn to remember.

To be taught in ways that prevent us from distinguishing between allies and enemies, or identifying us with a culture of death instead of a culture of life, or preserving a constant sense of isolation and dread, is an insult to the murdered we can no longer afford to keep silent about. Judaism is a vibrant force in society, and while we must never forget the past, we must never let it prevent us from living in the present.

BARRY JOSEPH
New York, April 17, 1996

Avoid User-Unfriendly Computerized Library

To the Editor:

Your April 15 Business Day article on the computerization of San Francisco's public library indicates that such a procedure can be done without damage to the library's normal functions.

That is not the case with the New York Public Library. The Mid-Manhattan Library and the branches have adopted a computerized catalogue system that is confusing and cumbersome. The user sometimes has to go through three screens to find where a book is shelved.

This contrasts with the system long in use in the main library, which gives the call number of a book after only one screen.

In addition, the Mid-Manhattan Library has too few computer terminals. There are always lines of people waiting to use one, and terminals are frequently out of order.

Thus, I learned with dismay that someone at our library has made the decision to throw away the book catalogues that classify all the books in the collection by titles, authors and

subjects. As I pointed out to a library employee, this means no one can locate a book when the computer is down, and makes it impossible for anyone unskilled at the library's computer system to find a book.

Moreover, everyone has to wait several minutes or longer to gain access to a terminal, while the book catalogues were always accessible. "Well, there are some disadvantages to it, I guess," was the employee's reply.

Why is the library spending much of its limited resources on a project that makes it more difficult to use the library?

THOMAS HOOPER
New York, April 18, 1996

Bob Grant's Listeners Got a Different View

To the Editor:

To the pleasure of some, the radio talk show host Bob Grant was dismissed (news article, April 18). Many others like me feel that we lost an individual who offered a different perspective on today's topics.

Whether you agreed with him or not, he offered a viewpoint that is seldom heard in the media today and that balanced those of the other hosts on WABC-AM, so that listeners got the full political spectrum.

Many may not have always agreed with what Mr. Grant had to say, but he did not yield to political correctness.

M. VARANO
Hoboken, N.J., April 18, 1996

Security at Fordham

To the Editor:

While the attack on a Fordham University student is horrifying enough, it is appalling to read the remarks by the university's director of security that "it did not have anything to do with Fordham University" because it "did not happen on campus" (news article, April 15). If the rape and beating of a student one block from campus does not constitute a security concern for the university, what else needs to happen before it acknowledges the reality of its location?

ABIGAIL JUDGE
New York, April 15, 1996

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Foreign Affairs

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

No More Carrots For Assad

WASHINGTON The best way to understand what the fighting between Israel and the pro-Iranian guerrillas in south Lebanon is all about is to think of it like this: Israel is about to have an election (May 29) and the whole Middle East is trying to take part in the campaign.

Those who cannot vote directly in the Israeli election are trying to influence the outcome by tugging the Israeli public in one direction or another, using either violence, rhetoric or diplomacy. Yes, Israel is having an election and everyone wants to come — Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran, you name it.

Middle East expert Stephen P. Cohen notes that "for decades the basic Arab perception of Israel was that it didn't matter who ruled, because, the Arabs argued, both major parties in Israel had the same basic attitude toward the P.L.O. and the occupied territories. Only their styles and language were different. But that is no longer the case. The Arabs and Iran understand very clearly that Israel is now standing before a major choice. There are real differences between Labor and Likud, and the Arabs and Iran want to shape that choice."

Those Arab states that, up to now, have been rather quiet about Israel's massive retaliation against Hezbollah, want to see Shimon Peres re-elected, because they know he will keep the peace process alive. Iran and the radical Arab and Palestinian forces want to see Likud Party leader Bibi Netanyahu elected because they believe he will kill the peace process and keep the radical dreams of the Muslim extremists alive. The militant fundamentalists have not been able to cajole, pressure or persuade a single Arab Government to break existing relations with Israel, so now they're trying to get the Israeli public to do it for them.

Whether Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah & Company will be successful in totally disillusioning the Israeli people about peace depends on Syria. It depends on whether Syria will give the militants room for troublemaking from Lebanon, or whether Syria instead will make them irrelevant, by standing up and showing that Syria's commitment to peace is more than just a whisper in Warren Christopher's ear.

The U.S. can't sweet-talk Syria into peace.

Up to now the Syrians have opted for troublemaking, and lots of it — so much so that it's now safe to say that the Clinton Administration has completely misread Syria. Syrian President Hafez al-Assad has played the Americans (and Israelis) for fools.

The Clinton Administration's Syria policy has been based on two assumptions. The first was that President Assad had made a strategic decision to make peace with Israel, and all that remained was to work out the terms. The second was that even if Mr. Assad was slow in concluding peace, it was worth it for President Clinton to go to Damascus and pay court to him, and it was worth it for Secretary Christopher to visit Damascus 17 times, because that would keep President Assad "sweet" and insure that he wouldn't undercut the peace process through his proxies in the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon.

Wrong. Mr. Assad not only balked at making progress with Israel, but he allowed an Islamic Jihad spokesman in Damascus to publicly take credit for a suicide bombing in Jerusalem last month and he allowed Hezbollah (which cannot operate without the tacit approval of Syria's 35,000 troops in Lebanon) to steadily increase its rocket attacks on northern Israel until Israel retaliated massively.

One only hopes that on Mr. Christopher's 18th visit to Damascus he finally explains to Mr. Assad that if Syria is not going to be part of the solution then the U.S. will treat Syria as part of the problem, no better than Iran. Mr. Assad only wants to take responsibility for peace once he has all of his Golan Heights back on his own conditions. Until then, he tells the Americans, he is not going to pay any price in terms of his relations with Iran or Hezbollah, by cracking down on them. Mr. Assad's position makes perfect sense. What's crazy is that the U.S. tolerates it.

It is true that only Mr. Assad can turn off the fighting in Lebanon, just as he allowed it to be turned on. But what isn't true, what has never been true, is the naive American notion that Mr. Assad will do it if we offer him enough pleasure, if we offer him enough "inclusion" in the peace process. This is not about pleasure. Mr. Assad does not deal in carrots. He deals in sticks. This is about pain. And it has been shocking to see the pain that has recently been inflicted on Lebanese and Israelis, but until Mr. Assad starts feeling a dose of that pain none of it's going to end.



Andrew Dudzinski

It's Not a Wage Gap But an Age Gap

By W. Michael Cox

DALLAS Congress appears bent on raising the minimum wage in an attempt to accomplish by legislative fiat what many claim the economy can no longer do on its own: give low-income workers a bigger piece of the pie. What legislators perhaps don't understand is that if poor Americans can gain entry into the work force, even at low wages, they usually move up the economic ladder.

The 20 House Republicans who have joined Democrats in calling for raising the minimum wage are apparently swayed by endlessly repeated popular myths: The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer; the middle class is going nowhere; today's twentysomething job-seekers are destined to be the first Americans in history not to live as well as their parents.

Census Bureau data seem to verify this pessimism. In 1994, the latest year available, the bottom fifth of households earned just 3.6 percent of the nation's income and saw their share of the wealth fall from 4.2 percent in 1975 to 3.6 percent. The top fifth, meanwhile, received almost half of the nation's income, up from 43.7 percent in 1975. After adjusting for inflation, the income of households in the lowest fifth rose only \$87 from 1975 to 1994. The top tier, mean-

Why the hourly minimum could hurt the working poor.

while, gained \$25,934. Yet the doomsayers ignore an important economic fact: Inequality is not immobility. The Census Bureau's static snapshots of income distribution don't gauge Americans' ability to move up the economic ladder. The actual people in each percentile change from one year to another.

To gauge opportunity in America, it is essential to track individuals in the labor force or those trying to join it (people 16 and older who are working, unemployed, laid off, in school or retired) and to follow them over a period of years, capturing the ups and downs in their income.

The University of Michigan's Panel Study on Income Dynamics has done exactly this, providing the longest-running record of Americans' earnings. In 1968, it began collecting detailed information on 50,915 people of all ages and income groups, and it compiled data through 1991.

The study gives a startlingly optimistic picture of economic mobility. Take those who were in the bottom fifth of all earners in 1975. The conventional view would lead us to believe that these people were probably worse off in the 1990's. But the Michigan study found that only 5 percent were still in the bottom fifth in 1991. More remarkable, 80 percent of the bottom fifth in 1975 had made it into the top 60 percent of earners — middle class or better — over that 16-year span. And 29 percent rose to the top fifth. This evidence suggests that holding low-income jobs is largely a transitory stage for people with little work experience.

How mobile are Americans? Of the Michigan group, less than 1 per-

W. Michael Cox is vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

cent of those in the lowest fifth in 1975 remained in the bottom 20 percent every single year until 1991. Nearly a quarter of those in the bottom tier in 1975 moved up the next year and never returned. More than three-quarters of those in the lowest fifth in 1975 spent at least one year among the top 40 percent of income earners by 1991.

The poor in the Michigan sample also made dramatic gains in annual income. Those who started in the bottom fifth in 1975 saw their average annual income increase by \$25,322 by 1991, adjusted for inflation. Among 1975's top 20 percent of earners, the increase was only \$3,974.

But not just the poorest workers from the 1970's did well. Among the second-poorest fifth, more than 70 percent had moved to a higher bracket by 1991, with 26 percent making it to the top 20 percent. From the middle fifth, almost half managed to raise their incomes. And a third of the people from the second-highest group made it to the top bracket.

What about the rich of 1975? Some fell to lower tiers, most likely because they retired or were laid off from high-paying jobs. Even so, nearly two-thirds of the group could still be found in the top tier in 1991. Less than 1 percent plummeted to the bottom.

The Michigan study isn't the first to look at individuals over time and find strong evidence to contradict the myth of a society sapped by declining opportunity. The Treasury Department reached a similar conclusion in a 1982 study. In analyzing tax returns from 14,351 households, it found that 86 percent of those in the lowest fifth in 1979 moved to a higher group by 1988. Two-thirds of these people reached the middle 20 percent or higher in just nine years, with almost 15 percent making it to the top fifth of income earners.

Not only do the statistics show that our economic system is biased toward success, but also they teach an important lesson about staying mobile in the economy of tomorrow. If people get into the work force — at any level — and stay there, they will likely be rewarded. There is a permanent underclass, but it consists for the most part of people who drop out of the work force entirely.

Getting people into the work force has taken on a new urgency in the postindustrial economy. Lifetime earning patterns have changed substantially. Traditionally, a worker's income rose rapidly in the early years of working, peaked in middle age, then fell as the worker eased toward retirement. But over the past four decades, earnings have been rising more sharply as workers age.

According to the Labor Department, in 1951 workers reached their peak earning years from the ages of 35 to 44. The average annual income of individuals in this group was 1.6 times the income of those from 20 to 24 years old, and slightly greater than that of workers between 45 and 54. By 1993, the peak earning years shifted to ages 45 to 54, and these workers earned almost 3.1 times more than the those in the 20-24 age group.

Older workers are doing better because the economy has shifted toward services and technology; brain power can continue to expand long after muscle power has begun to falter. Thus as the country retools itself for a more knowledge-intensive era, workers are increasingly rewarded for what they've learned in the workplace. Earnings for those with experience rise sharply, and the gap widens between youth and middle age.

This in part explains the apparent discrepancy between the Census Bureau's figures and the Michigan study. There is an income gap, but it driven more today by the steepening earnings of workers as they age.

It's not that the young are worse off; it's that older, more experienced workers are doing much better. Those who can stay in jobs almost certainly will receive their reward. Thus it is job experience, not government, that makes work pay. The key is to get a start and stay working.

So why is Congress talking about raising the minimum wage when economists of all stripes agree that even a 90-cent increase would reduce employment by hundreds of thousands of jobs over the long term? This would expel from the working class the very people whom the raise would purportedly help: the inexperienced. It is the kind of help poor Americans can't afford.

Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

Kafka on Madison

WASHINGTON Someone must have been telling lies about M. for without having done anything wrong she was defamed one fine morning. Who could these people in black suits be? Why wouldn't they accept her proof of innocence?

"This is sheer nonsense!" M. told the irresponsible gossips, whereupon they advised her to change into something black.

What authority could they represent? They had come from B.

Barneys has been so rattled by Bergdorf-envy, bankruptcy and bad press, its attitude has metamorphosed from hip to menacing, avant to authoritarian.

You'd think the soigné emporium would be busy with important things, like that little matter of the \$600 million it borrowed from the poor Japanese and spent the way its own customers would. But, no-o-o-o, there's still plenty of time for recreational vengeance.

"Barneys plays hard ball," says Jennet Conant, who wrote a scalding piece about the garment district Borgias in the new Vanity Fair. "The Pressmans have always expected people to play along and be quiet because they are so powerful. Barneys is getting so spooky, I'm afraid to shop there anymore. They're driving me back to Bergdorf's."

My own hell began on April 11, when I saw a New York Post Page Six headline: "Dowd in dither over discount denial." The gossip item said I had gone into Barneys and cruised the Prada counter "where accessories often go for \$700 and more." I had "set my sights on a handbag from the spring collection," but when it came time "to fork over the cash," I "balked," demanding a discount. "The clerk politely refused," and so I "blew up."

Mistaken identity? No, it looked as if somebody was framing me. I called Mr. Page Six, Richard Johnson, who once modeled for Barneys. He referred me to his colleague who wrote the item, Jeane MacIntosh.

I told Ms. MacIntosh the story was illogical. A Barneys clerk, intimidated? Bargain hunting in Barneys? Anyway, the vixen in the trenchcoat could not have been me. I don't own a trenchcoat. I wouldn't be caught dead in Prada. And I had not been in New York in weeks.

Ms. MacIntosh, who alleged this happened on April 2, was unmoved. She stuck with the unnamed witness she described as a fashion reporter and three Barneys employees.

Women's Wear Daily reported that Page Six put a private detective on me. My spy at Page Six said the detective failed to dig up a shuttle or Metroliner ticket. The shamus reported back that I didn't have a Visa card. I have two.

"Maybe we should put you in a lineup," Mr. Johnson said. "Are you going to say that you're being persecuted by a sleazy tabloid journal with no regard for truth, gross negligence and sloppy reporting?" (Nah.)

Barneys was also scaring me. After my January column tweaking the store for its snooty ways, someone went into the Barneys computer and leaked the record of my purchases to Page Six. This time around, I asked Barneys if I could face my accusers, but the store would not satisfy my craving for justice.

A respected editor in New York told me the same campy tantrum story had been peddled to him by a Barneys flack. The flack, of course, denies it.

Before I'd written a word, Barneys sent a letter to The Times denying responsibility for the item in The Post and asserting that The Post had confirmed its story.

Mr. Johnson called this claim of confirmation "probably unfortunate

How I became a fashion victim.

phrasing." What never happened cannot, of course, be confirmed.

I decided to investigate my own whereabouts on April 2. I came up with good news and bad news. The good news was that I had an alibi. The bad news was that my alibi was Strom Thurmond.

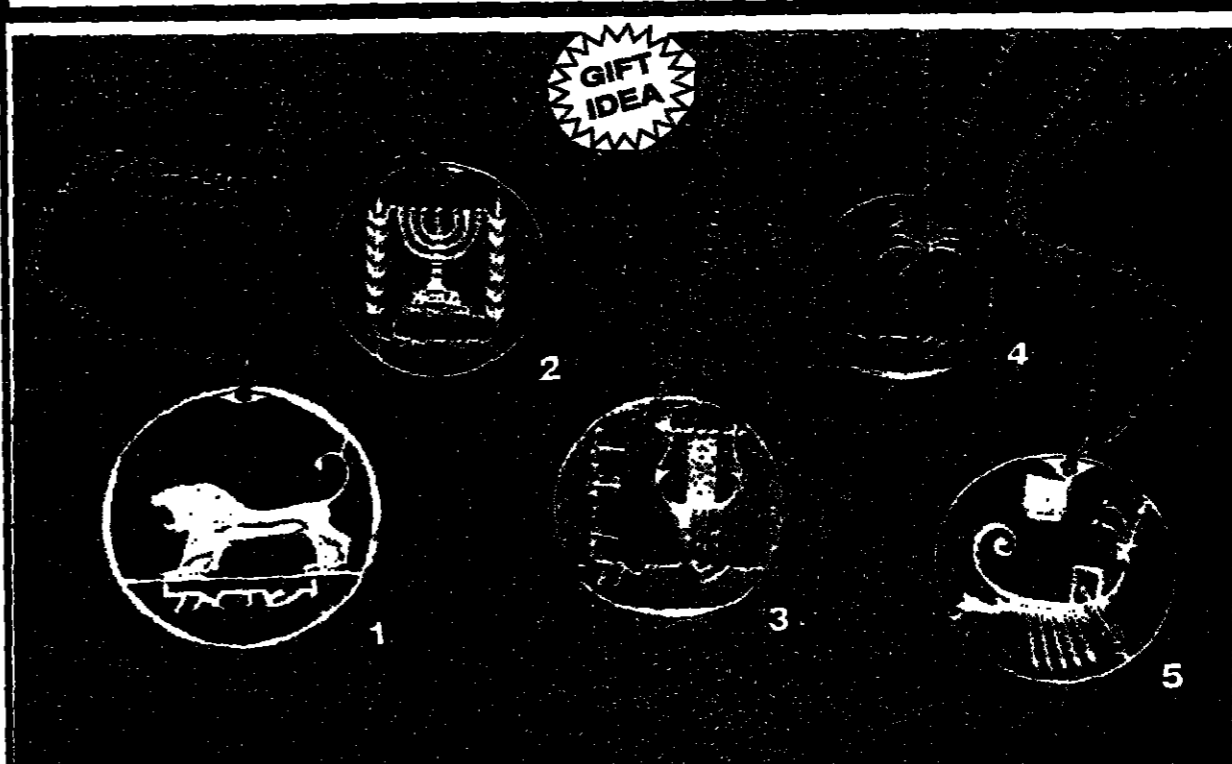
"My records show that you were here and you do have pretty red hair," the 93-year-old Senator said.

I asked Michael Kelly of The New Yorker if he recalled our lunch at The Irish House. His statement: "Oh, yeah, after lunch we went to the Price Club, where Maureen demanded a 75 percent reduction on a set of radial tires. Pirelli, I believe."

The Times researcher Barclay Walsh says I tormented her all afternoon for help on a column on Bob Dole's thighs.

Just one of the million stories in the naked city.

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FILM

Now It's the Cars That Make the Characters Go

By PHIL PATTON

THE Cadillac of minivans," John Travolta calls the Oldsmobile Silhouette he drives in the film "Get Shorty." As smooth talking as a car salesman, by the end of the movie he has convinced a big Hollywood star, played by Danny DeVito, that a vehicle lambasted by Consumer Reports for its technical mediocrity and derided in car magazines for "Dustbuster styling" has its own virtues. The punch line: The Hollywood star ends up buying one.

Just as that star was sold on the Silhouette, Hollywood is increasingly being sold on cars' usefulness in telegraphing something about a movie's characters. Audiences immediately get the shorthand notion that Mustangs mean macho independence and that Volvos signify respectability because those are the images that automobile advertising gives to those cars.

"The car companies spend a lot of money defining their markets and demographics," says Norm Marshall, who runs a product placement firm that represents BMW, Volvo and other car makers. "The film makers basically take advantage of that positioning to establish their characters."

Particularly with today's fast-paced films, which leave less time for establishing characters' personalities and motivations, cars offer a quick way to provide a wardrobe of types, a palette of social standings and personal obsessions. Such are the subtle gradations of meaning cars take on these days that, like actors, they can become characters in themselves. Movie viewers laugh at the incongruousness of a Hollywood star driving a pedestrian vehicle like an Oldsmobile mini-van. And they feel superior to the two hoods in "Fargo" (Peter Stormare and Steve Buscemi) who agree to kidnap a man's wife in exchange for some cash and a forlorn-looking Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera.

Oldsmobile surely wasn't thrilled with the use of its mini-van in "Get Shorty." A model already on its last legs when the film came out, the Silhouette will soon be replaced by a new version. Indeed it was exactly because the mini-van — in the film, the only car available at a rental agency — wore such an air of haplessness that audiences found it funny when Mr. Travolta's character, Chili Palmer, glibly compared it to a Cadillac.

On the other hand, when Sally Field arrives in a square Volvo wagon for the wild children's birthday party Robin Williams is giving in "Mrs. Doubtfire," advertising and viewer experience have already created an image. The vehicle immediately casts Ms. Field's character as professional, conservative and safe-

ty conscious, if not downright upright.

Likewise, in "Basic Instinct," Michael Douglas, in his detective's-salary Mustang, struggles to keep up in a car chase with the expensive and powerful Lotus, a femme fatale of a car, driven by — who else? — Sharon Stone.

The Chevrolet El Camino — half car, half pickup — that Harry Dean Stanton drives from California to Texas in the 1983 Wim Wenders film "Paris, Texas" is close to the perfect objective correlative of the existential country-and-western character he plays in the movie. In fact, the appearance of a big, older American car is a sure signal that we are about to see a road film. Make it a convertible — the Ford Thunderbird in "Thelma and Louise" or the purple Cadillac in "True Romance" — and

When a Mustang zooms into a film, there's no doubt the driver is macho.

the car says: we're open to anything; bring on the adventure.

When a character changes cars in a film (just as when a character changes his wardrobe), that signals Character Development. Take a look at "Father of the Bride Part II." In it, Steve Martin's character is shown in an exotic sports car when he is trying to feel and look younger; after he discovers that he and his wife are about to become parents again in middle age, he is shown driving a more domesticated Jeep sport utility vehicle.

Although cars most often play supporting roles, their appearance can underscore the film's main theme. In the Coen brothers' "Fargo," a series of murders centers on an Oldsmobile dealership — the epicenter of square America — and the burnt umber Ciera the killers drive appears as wan as the lives and landscape depicted. The villain of the film (played by William H. Macy) is a car salesman who bullies customers into paying extra for the "true coat" rustproofing they don't really need; his deceptions in the end prove just as ineffectual a surface treatment.

In "Flirting With Disaster," David Russell's new farce of mistaken identities, the important vehicles are identical white Tauruses (both rental) that are confused at a crucial plot point. ("Does anyone really own a white Taurus?" one character asks.)

The Taurus, the best selling car in America for several years running, is so ubiquitous that Hollywood can ring comparatively subtle changes

on its symbolism. When Harrison Ford is called to the White House in "Clear and Present Danger," he arrives in his Taurus station wagon, reminding us that he's just an ordinary suburban guy who happens to work for the C.I.A. (In the same film the Columbian drug lords drive Range Rovers.)

Not all cars that appear on films are canny choices meant to portray character — or become sight gags. Some cars, like BMW's Z3 roadster in the recent James Bond film "Goldeneye," are treated as if they were the stars of the films. (As a result, the Z3 roadster is now back-ordered.) This despite the fact that the car appears in the movie for only a few seconds.

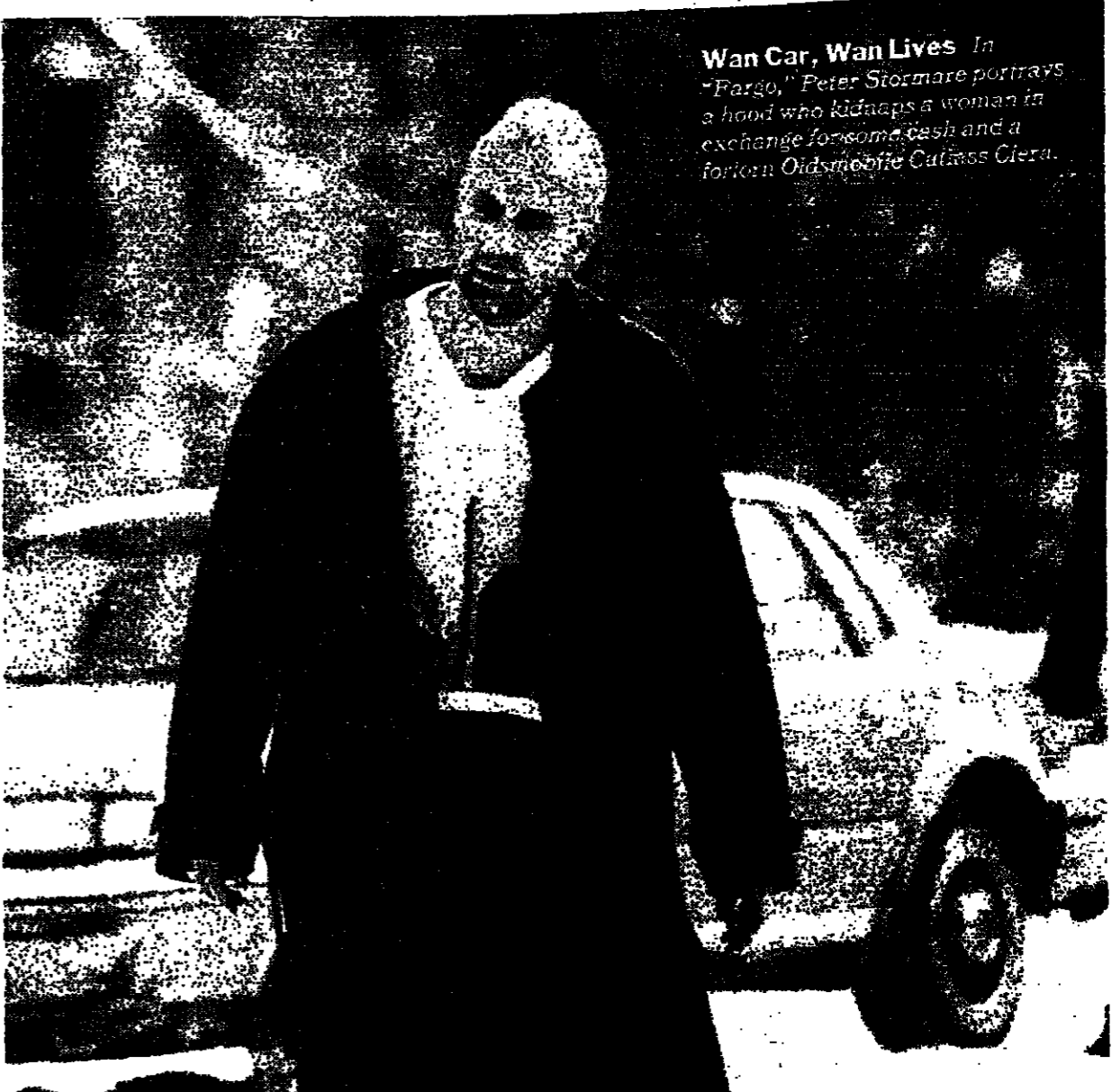
Those few moments on screen can act like mini car commercials. Automobile manufacturers have been benefiting from their film roles since the Keystone Kops drove Model T's back in silent film days. The Bruce Springsteen song "Cadillac Ranch" contains a hall of fame of car images from films: James Dean's 1949 Mercury (which he drove in the 1955 film "Rebel Without a Cause"), Burt Reynolds's Trans Am from "Smoky and the Bandit" (1977).

The appearance of the Alfa-Romeo in the 1967 movie "The Graduate," many an auto buff will tell you, kept that car going in the American market for more than a quarter of a century, until the Italian firm bailed out of the United States last year after steadily declining sales.

Even though some cars appear on screen because they say something special about a character, or, in fact, become a character, other cars turn up because of deal making — just as sure as E.T. followed a trail of Reese's Pieces instead of M&M's. The most publicized appearances of vehicles in film these days are a result of product placements that involve joint promotional efforts by car companies and film companies. Once the film makers decide that they need, say, a sports car, they can play off the agent for Ferrari against the agent for Lamborghini. In essence, they are casting the part while looking for the best business partner. These deals, when they work properly, sell both films and cars.

Increasingly, the studios are looking at parallel promotion from car companies — like that from fast food chains — to help swell ticket sales. Mr. Marshall claims that advertising, promotion and associated publicity from the BMW tie-in he arranged for "Goldeneye" added millions to the film's earnings.

The first such big-car tie-in was probably "Days of Thunder," the Tom Cruise stock-car racing film from 1990 that Chevrolet used to promote its Lumina model. Despite the film's mediocre reviews and failure to draw much of an audience, "Days of Thunder" still helped



Wan Car, Wan Lives In "Fargo," Peter Stormare portrays a hood who kidnaps a woman in exchange for some cash and a forlorn Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera.

Michael Tackett/Graneray Pictures

Chevrolet sell cars. (It didn't hurt that Tom Cruise and the car appeared together in the posters.)

In fact, Mr. Cruise had already helped promote Porsches in an earlier film, the 1983 movie "Risky Business," although few people reading the script for that film would have been enthusiastic about having their luxury vehicle appear in a movie about a college kid who becomes a pimp in his suburban house while his parents are away on vacation. Today a number of auto executives speak of the appearance of the Porsche in that film as close to ideal movie exposure. How so?

Mr. Cruise's character, after a series of comic misadventures, ends up submerging his father's Porsche — which doesn't sound good. But in the ensuing scenes, not only does the film include, verbatim, the ad line "There is no substitute for a Porsche," but a scene in the dealership shows the customer receiving careful and polite attention, a rare positive treatment in film of car salesmen.

Appearing in the right film, Mr. Marshall says, can have more impact "than being on 10 Motor Trend covers."

But note those words the "right film." Al Weiss, the executive in charge of publicity and marketing for Mercedes-Benz North America, who supervises placements in film, is not always pleased with the way his vehicles are depicted.

"We are looking for nice upscale placement," Mr. Weiss says. "Nice-guy car appeal — i.e., we wouldn't always like it to be the Mafia staff car." One of his cars is incinerated by an angry wife, played by Angela Bassett, in "Waiting to Exhale"; Mr. Weiss, for one, is more pleased with the romantic ambience lent to several Mercedes models in the recent remake of "Sabrina."

Pearls Meet Pratfalls

By JAMIE DIAMOND

SHE has the fresh-faced look of a 1950's Radcliffe grad: good bone structure, great shoulders, a natural athlete. Someone a fellow could go skiing with who wouldn't complain about the cold. Both gorgeous and game, Téa Leoni is the kind of girl a Philip Roth character would go crazy for.

In the new film "Flirting With Disaster," a road comedy that turns up deranged families in all the wrong places, Ms. Leoni appears with Ben Stiller, Mary Tyler Moore, Lily Tomlin, Alan Alda and Patricia Arquette. Reviewing the film in The New York Times, Janet Maslin said that Ms. Leoni "shows off a sleek resemblance to Annette Bening and fine comic style."

In the film, Ms. Leoni, 30, plays Tina Kalb, the earnest and wildly inept former dancer and adoption counselor who accompanies Mel Coplin (Mr. Stiller) on his quest to find his real parents. Needless to say, the neurotic and married Mel goes crazy over her.

Ms. Leoni's comedic style harks back to the screwball comedies of the 30's and 40's, when there were glamour pussies aplenty to take movie pratfalls. Sure, Roseanne or Whoopi Goldberg may do great falls, but Ms. Leoni falls differently. And not just because she wears high heels.

The only daughter of a corporate lawyer father and a nutritionist mother, Ms. Leoni grew up in Englewood, N.J., and New York and attended the Brearley School in New York and the Putney School in Vermont. She plays golf and wears pearls.

"I have learned in my life that the world is very shocking, and I find it funny to watch a character who is shocked by everything she comes into contact with," she says. "I've always appreciated what it feels like to try to hold your head up and maintain your grace when you are faced with something completely not what you had in mind."

She could be speaking about her career.



Téa Leoni — She never took an acting class.

After dropping out of Sarah Lawrence to live on St. Croix, in the Caribbean, and then spending time on Cape Cod wind sailing and playing tennis, she auditioned for and won a leading role in a new, 1988 series based on "Charlie's Angels" that was never broadcast. The audition was done on a dare; she was so inexperienced she read aloud the stage direction ("beat") — and managed to hold up her head when everybody laughed.

"I've always admired actresses who had a certain graceful poise, like Lucy," Ms. Leoni says. "She had a dignified body language that could tell you what her mouth and hair were screaming."

Though she never took an acting class, she won small roles in movies like "Wyatt Earp" (1994) and "Bad Boys" (1995). She was also cast in two sitcoms, "Flying Blind" (which ran for one season) and this year's "Naked Truth" (now on hiatus at ABC) in which she stars as a former society wife who must support herself by working as a tabloid photographer. Ms. Leoni is happiest in those fish-out-of-water situations in which her character is hoisted by her own high-mindedness.

"I grew up in an extremely academic and intellectual atmosphere,"

she says. "So the idea that the power of your intellect could, should and would control the outcome of a situation is a familiar one. That does imply a bit of arrogance. But nothing is more fun than laughing at an arrogant human being having the rug pulled out from under them."

While the women with plump lips or no underwear know they are sexual, Ms. Leoni, who is divorced, appears unaware of her beauty. She has a drop-dead deadpan manner. Chris Thompson, who is the producer of "The Naked Truth" and also lives with Ms. Leoni, has likened her to a "dirty Disney character."

Ms. Leoni says: "I have always been able to keep a straight face and know I am provoking laughter in the room. But I wasn't the funny one in the family, I was the class clown. To say, here's the new comedic talent still seems very foreign to me."

And yet, as Ms. Moore notes, "She's got spunk. That was the line that Ed Asner said of me in the first episode of 'The Mary Tyler Moore Show.' He said: 'You know what, kid? You've got spunk.' And I looked smug and pleased with myself. And then he said, 'I hate spunk.'"

Luckily for Ms. Leoni, the rest of the world doesn't seem to agree.

MANANA

BY MATT GAFFNEY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- Clog (up)
- Venue for political coverage
- Sharp
- Range
- It has a head and hops
- Kind of cuisine
- Like some caps
- Shiraz native
- TV show on delayed broadcast?
- Lloyd George contemporary
- Beef cuts
- Absolute Truth
- Worm
- One of the Pointer Sisters
- Kind of deck
- Surrender specifics
- Kissers' interference
- Somewhat
- Part of a pound
- Actress Merkel
- Like a good cake
- Run through
- "Sesame Street" setting
- Bills coach Levy
- State name preceder
- Doit
- "The Waltons" character
- siècle
- One in a wool coat
- "Billy Bathgate" author
- One of three Indy winners
- "What did I tell you?"
- Out of control
- First name in autocrats
- Parent
- German-Polish border river
- Steady high
- It's south of Eur.
- Girls' shoes
- Work
- Vienna transport
- India's first prime minister
- Aloft
- Aztec (language group)
- Less straight-forward
- "Who's there?" reply, informally
- 50's TV actress
- Expiration
- Raiders leader
- Feudal state
- Had been
- Van Owen player on "L.A. Law"
- Look over
- New York City highway, with "the"
- Melodramatic
- Chance
- Parting
- Word with water or wall
- Slangy greeting
- Tennis's Nastase

DOWN

- Anesthetic
- Loudly lamented
- Places for December
- Stadium sound
- who?
- Subject of a Swift essay
- Working tirelessly
- Undo
- To the point
- Newspaper reportage
- Dido of Carthage
- Speak deliriously
- Raised
- It joins the Colorado near Yuma
- Stadiums
- 1985 pop hit released behind schedule?
- Link
- Brown and Turner
- Semiconductor device
- Clod buster
- Mitchell place
- Mick Jagger's late girlfriend?
- Treaty subjects
- Gator cousin
- Second day of Lent?
- Columbus's home
- Tardy employee?
- "What —?"
- English port west of Bournemouth
- It gets the shaft
- Publishers' Clearinghouse contests
- Sibyls
- Cup filled to the top
- More advanced
- Popular pencil and paper game
- Skiing event
- Postponed religious event?
- French- and Arabic-speaking seaport
- "Quit bothering me!"
- Phi Beta Kappa and such
- Architectural decorations
- To any degree
- Picked-up item
- Best Actor of 1990
- P.D.Q.
- Inkatha Freedom Party supporter
- Ridicule
- Feds
- King of Spain
- Baton Rouge sch.
- Over there

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

P D O C B S B I E L L A G A Z E T T E
 E A U T E N D A L T A B A I L O N
 P T A U T A N T I N T S T U E U N I O N
 S E A N S T A T E S H O E W A N A
 R E G I F I G A E N N U I
 M I C H E L B E E R E S P A R T O
 S A C V A Y S O L O I S T S O I L
 I V Y C L I P A L T A U T N E
 M R C T H E S T A R G U L U R N O T O
 J A L A R G R A N D U I P E I
 S E E M I T S I F A N O U
 G O O O B E L I S K S L A C K S
 C A R D S O D O R O T H Y D I X A K R O N
 A M O S W I L N E D A D A D A
 L I T B I N G T A O J A N R E K
 F A C T O I D O L Y M P I C S A N E S
 I N T E R D C R I E D O V E R
 B E R S H O E S S E L F A N O U
 C I R C L E S O F L D S S P E E C H A I S
 A N N I A L A D I E U R E P O S T I E
 R E T I E L S A V I E S D A S R T S

April 21, 1996

Heavy sentence for taking bribes

In the Supreme Court, sitting as a Court of Criminal Appeals, before Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Elyahu Mazza and Ya'acov Kedmi, in the matter of Tikva Kfir, appellant, versus the State of Israel, respondent (C.A. 3854/95).

Tikva Kfir, an employee in the Beersheba traffic licensing office, was authorized to issue driving licenses to qualified applicants. She accepted the suggestion of one Gila Videvsky, an official in an Arad driving school, to issue licenses to unqualified persons in return for payment. Over some seven months she issued, *fake* licenses to 12 persons. Some had failed their driving test a few times and some had not even applied for a license in the ordinary way.

There were also others the issue of whose licenses was suspended for non-payment of fines. In each case Videvsky received NIS 3,000-NIS 4,000, keeping some, and handing some to Kfir. Videvsky was charged in the Beersheba District Court with bribing Kfir. Following a plea bargain with the prosecution she admitted her guilt, was convicted, and sentenced, at the prosecutor's request, to three months' imprisonment commuted to community service. Kfir was charged with accepting bribes, and fraud and breach of trust, under sections 290 and 284 of the Penal Law of 1977.

The prosecutor informed the court at the outset that the plea bargain with Videvsky was based on the assumption that she would be able to assist the prosecution in tracing corruption on the part of other employees in the licensing office. That assumption, he said, proved to be mistaken, and he also conceded that Videvsky had approached Kfir and tempted her to accept the bribes. He submitted, nevertheless, that Kfir's crimes were extremely serious and demanded a prison sentence, although Videvsky's light

LAW REVIEW
ASHER FELIX LANDAU

sentence should be taken into account when punishing Kfir. Kfir was convicted. In regard to sentence, the District Court held that Videvsky was the "main culprit," and also referred to the rule that offenders involved in the same crime should generally be treated in the same way. On the other hand, not only was Kfir a public servant who had accepted bribes, but she had endangered the community by issuing driving licenses to persons unqualified to receive them. It therefore sentenced her to nine months' actual imprisonment, 18 months' conditional imprisonment, and a fine of NIS 5,000. She then appealed to the Supreme Court against the sentence.

JUSTICE MAZZA delivered the first judgment of the court. Kfir's counsel, he said, had emphasized the rule of the uniformity of punishments for offenders involved in the same crime. He had also stressed that it was Videvsky who had laid temptation in Kfir's path. He had also relied on Kfir's personal and family circumstances, that she had lost all her rights in the public service, and that the serious depression that had overtaken her could become permanent if she were imprisoned.

He held, nevertheless, that although Videvsky was the prime mover in what happened, Kfir's crime was the more serious. Citing precedents, he ruled that in cases of corruption among public servants the defendant's personal circumstances had to yield, and sentences of actual imprisonment were necessary to deter others from similar conduct. He was sure the light sentence imposed on Videvsky was taken into account by the District Court. The sentence of actual imprisonment imposed on Kfir struck a correct balance, in his view, between the gravity of her conduct and her personal considera-

tions. For the above reasons Justice Mazza proposed that the appeal be dismissed. At the same time he drew the prison authorities' attention to Kfir's personal plight, which should be taken into account in regard to the conditions of her imprisonment. Her mental state should also be kept under review to enable her to receive the necessary help during that period. Justice Kedmi concurred.

JUSTICE GOLDBERG dissented. In his opinion the principle of the uniformity of punishments had no place in the present context. Videvsky was convicted of giving bribes while Kfir was convicted of accepting them. There was a wide difference between the two, and the damage to the community.

Citing precedents, he agreed with the rule that the correct penalty for a public servant who accepted bribes was actual imprisonment. However, as in all cases of passing sentence, there were exceptions to the rule, and this case was an exception. Where actual imprisonment would bring the defendant to breaking point, his interests should be preferred. Even where sentences of actual imprisonment were called for, the principle of "thou shalt live by them" should be applied.

The probation officer's report made it clear there was a real danger that Kfir would be unable to withstand imprisonment. Punishment was not intended to break an offender. He proposed, therefore, that the appeal be allowed, and the sentence altered to one of six months' imprisonment commuted to community service.

In the result, and by majority decision, the appeal was dismissed. Suzy Shalev appeared for Kfir; Arye Peter, assistant state attorney, appeared for the state; and Hanna Ekis appeared for the Probation Service. The judgment was given on March 14, 1996.

Ships that helped launch a state

The North American role in Aliya Bet is recalled by Murray Greenfield

THE War of Independence started long before May 15, 1948. It really started with the efforts to bring Jews to Eretz Yisrael after the Holocaust.

Though there had been many calls for unlimited Jewish immigration to the British mandate in Palestine before the Holocaust, the British never allowed these calls to come to fruition.

Then, at the conclusion of World War II, Aliya Bet began with its efforts to bring Holocaust survivors to Palestine in every way possible.

North American Jews played a special part in this. Seven of them even gave their lives: one was murdered by the British on the ship *Exodus 1947* and six others died in the War of Independence.

Many of the aspects of Aliya Bet have become legendary. However, the key role played by North American Jews - who purchased and sailed ships used in Aliya Bet - is less known.

From August 1945 until January 1, 1948, some 69,560 Holocaust survivors were smuggled through Europe in the underground *Beraha* operation and then put on ships manned by some 240 North American Jewish volunteer sailors.

This immigration embarrassed the British to such an extent that they turned to the UN for guidance and the UN responded by taking the mandate away from them.

On February 5, 1946, a newly formed company wrote the first check to buy ships with money the Jewish Agency had raised in the US. Dewey Stone, a very active Zionist and a successful textile manufacturer, signed the \$110,000 check.

The idea of forming a company to legally purchase each ship was the result of a discussion by the Hagana personnel operating in the US - Yaakov Dori and Danni Schind - and their American partners - Captain William Ash, who helped recruit other Jewish sailors, and Morris Ginsberg, of the American Foreign Shipping Lines.

The Hagana had wanted to set up a clandestine operation as it had done in Europe and Palestine, but the Americans claimed it was possible for the Hagana to operate legally in the US.

On January 31, 1946, Eliezer Kaplan, who later became Israel's first Finance Minister, established an investment fund for Stone to administer. Although Stone was not responsible for the fund's losses, he guaranteed Kaplan that he would do his best and would submit regular reports.



Some American volunteers who worked on behalf of immigration to Palestine are seen in Cyprus in front of the British Guard Station. The article's author is at far right.

By February 4, the money was in the bank and only Stone's signature was needed to release it to the Caribbean Atlantic Shipping Company.

Some 15 other checks, totaling \$740,000, were used to purchase a total of 10 ships under the names of 10 different companies, such as FB Trading and Western Trading. These ships ferried to Israel almost half of the immigrants who came in Aliya Bet.

The ships all had foreign registry, not American, even though they had been purchased in the US. This was necessary because none of the ships could have passed the stringent American inspection for seaworthiness. Moreover, the crews were comprised of volunteers, many of whom didn't have a sailing license or proper training.

The real success of the operation was that it caused the British to turn to the UN for help. The UN responded by endorsing the November 1947 partition plan, which paved the way for the creation of a Jewish state.

The writer was a member of the *Haikva* crew and coauthored *The Jews' Secret Fleet*.

Prevent woollens from becoming a moth's lunch

EARTHLY CONCERNS
DVCORA BEN SHAUL

NOW that Pesach is over, it is time to put away our winter woollens.

This most generally involves some measures to protect winter clothing from moth damage and the commonest way to do this is by the use of chemical sprays or naphthalene-based moth balls.

Neither is pleasant to use and some are toxic; moth-preventive sprays contain CFCs that are believed to be the principal cause of depletion of the ozone layer around the earth that protects all life on earth from damages by blocking excess ultraviolet rays from the sun.

But there is an alternative to the use of these materials that is safe, pleasant to use and leaves no smelly residue on clothing and other woollens while protecting them from moth damage.

The system begins with remembering that once things are put away in a closed place no new moths come to lay eggs.

What happens is that the eggs of the moths are already there, they hatch and the emergent generation of larvae are what eat holes in the material.

So the problem is not so much one of protection against future intruders but of eliminating the hatching of those that are already there and one of the simplest and safest ways to do this is by freezing them.

This can be done in any home freezer. Just clear a space in the freezer, which does not have to be too big, where you can freeze packages.

Put the laundered, sun- or at least fresh-air-dried woolen garment or material into a plastic bag, express the excess air and seal the bag completely with a good sealing tape. Put this packet into the freezer at its normal temperature for deep-freeze and leave it for 48 hours, remove and store but do not open it until autumn or winter when you take these items out of storage. The moth eggs will be killed by the freezing process.

This means that you need not have a very large space in your freezer, only large enough to accommodate the largest garment or blanket you want to treat. Freeze a few items every 48 hours until you've emptied your closets of woollens and have gotten everything ready for storage.

This system is also perfectly safe for books, even leather- or silk-bound volumes. Just put them in a bag and freeze them to get rid of book worm, moths or book lice. You can then take them out of their bag and return

them to a shelf that has been thoroughly cleaned and vacuumed.

Many libraries, including the US Library of Congress and the Oxford University Library, are using freezing as an alternative to chemical fumigation which is hazardous to the health of the library workers and to users.

Use the freezer to protect other items from pests, without using hazardous chemicals. Cold is being used to treat small wooden art objects purchased in the tropics which otherwise would turn to sawdust once you get them home because the worms or termites are already at work. You can also freeze sealed bags of flour, grains, legumes and other dry goods to keep them free of meal worms for long periods.

A visionary who brought Israel and the Diaspora together

GEOFFREY WIGODER

PROF. Moshe Davis, who died this month in Jerusalem, was a dynamic academic, constantly brimming with original ideas. He made a wealth of contributions to Jewish life both in Israel and in the Diaspora.

Born in 1916 in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, he first made his name as a boy cantor. He was ordained at the Conservative Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, of which he became provost in 1950.

While there he was responsible for a number of innovations that stimulated American Jewish life. One of these was the Ramah camps, which pioneered the Jewish summer camp network in the US. Another was the seminary's "Faith" TV series - the first regular Jewish broadcasts on a national network.

Moshe Davis was driven by a

deep love of Zion. As a student he came to the Hebrew University where, in 1937, he was the first American to receive a doctorate. He returned in 1956 to establish the university's Institute of Contemporary Jewry. His concept of the need for such an institution coincided with the thinking of then-president Binyamin Mazar and rector Nathan Rotenstreich and they invited Davis to Jerusalem, where he made his home.

With an overall vision of his goals and an unerring eye for young talent, he built up an outstanding faculty and the institute, the first of its kind, became an example for similar projects elsewhere.

While he coined the academic discipline of contemporary Jewry, the institute was based on an interdisciplinary approach - combining history, demography, education and sociology with special departments for the Holocaust, Zionism and regional studies. He also introduced two departments



Prof. Moshe Davis: An innovator for American Jewry and a noted Zionist. (Joel Fishman)

that were first in the Jewish world: oral history and a Jewish film archive.

One of his favorite projects was the establishment of America-Holy Land studies, which has produced a whole library of books concerning the relationship of the US (and later of other countries) to the Holy Land. Davis, who was appointed professor of American history and institutions, was a popular teacher beloved for his sense of humor and cheerful optimism.

In 1965 he founded the Study Circle on World Jewry in the Home of the President of Israel, which met regularly during the terms of office of presidents Shazar, Katzir, Navon and Herzog and led to a series of challenging publications, edited by Davis.

As a noted Zionist ideologist, Davis was deeply involved in the affairs of the World Zionist Organization and founded its project for academic seminars on Zionist thought, with the participation of groups of Jewish intellectuals in many countries.

Davis made yet another major contribution when he founded and headed the International Center for the Academic Teaching of Jewish Civilization. This has stimulated and coordinated the teaching of Jewish subjects in universities around the world, suggesting curricula and producing textbooks.

The center is in contact with more than 1,000 institutions of higher learning with courses on Jewish civilization. Davis's most recent book was *Teaching Jewish Civilization* which synthesized a global Jewish view to higher education.

He was responsible for hundreds of publications, in which his constant collaborator - as in everything else - was his wife, Lotte. Davis's goal was an Israel-Diaspora symbiosis based on separate but complementary Jewish identities reaching out for each other and based firmly in knowledge, study and deep love of the Jewish people.

INDEPENDENCE DAY PERFORMANCES AT THE JERUSALEM THEATER

Tuesday, April 23, 1996
20 Marcus St., Jerusalem

Sing along with Yoni Rechter
Instrumentalists: Yoni Rechter, Eli Mohar, Avital Pasternak
Yoni Rechter's best known and loved songs
Sherover Hall at 10:00 p.m.

Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra IBA
Conductor: Yutaka Sado, Laureate of the Leonard Bernstein conducting competition 1995.
Soloists: Laura Aikin (Soprano) - Berlin State Opera
David Demiani, Baritone, Vienna Royal Opera

Program:
Orgad - Two Overtures for Brass, Famous Operatic Arias and Duets
Beethoven - Symphony No. 9
Henry Crown Hall at 9:30 a.m.

Special Folklore Performance for Tourists
The Jerusalem Hora Song and Dance Troupe, favorite Israeli songs.
Rebecca Crown Hall at 10:30 p.m.

Dance Party from 11:30 p.m. (following the performances)
in the foyer of the Jerusalem Theater
Hashagririm Band will play dance music till dawn.

Jerusalem Independence Day Party

Tickets prices: US \$28 / NIS 90 group purchases (minimum of 15): US \$22 / NIS 70

Free admission to the dance party with ticket to one of the performances.

Tickets: Bimot, 8 Sharnai St. Tel. (02) 240896
Kla'im, 12 Shamai St. Tel. (02) 256869
Jerusalem Theater box Office, 20 Marcus St. Tel. (02) 610011

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Monday, April 22, 1996

Damages in North at NIS 70m.

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

SINCE Operation Grapes of Wrath began on April 11, the northern region has sustained more than NIS 70 million in direct and indirect damages, according to Income Tax Commissioner Doron Levy. The hundreds of Hizbullah Katyusha rockets fired from Lebanon have affected more than 1,100 homes and public and agricultural buildings in the North, causing more than NIS 20m. in direct damage. The agriculture industry alone has sustained NIS 3m. in damages. Shops and hotels in the largely abandoned northern cities — including Nahariya and Kiryat Shmona — have lost more than NIS 50m. in revenue. "The milk that spoils and the food that a caterer prepared for an event that was canceled as a result of the attacks are all calculated in the indirect cost of the operation," said Sarit Giladi, spokeswoman for the Income Tax Commission. Yoran Eversur, spokesman for the Kiryat Shmona Municipality, could not confirm the figure, saying only that the operation should

be carried out until quiet can be restored to the city of 23,000 residents. In response to the fighting, the Income Tax Commission has doubled the ceiling for payments for indirect damages, not including workers' wages, from NIS 2,000 to NIS 4,000. The commission has also given employers and independent workers from the confrontation areas an additional week to file their income tax reports and payments, moving the deadline back from April 22 to April 30. The deadline for yearly income tax reports has been extended one month to May 31, and residents of the confrontation areas will have until May 15 for other claims and payments — including damage assessment reports and the payment of fines. The Customs and VAT Authority also announced it has extended the deadline for payment of VAT taxes until April 30, and is offering reductions and a special payment program for businesses in the confrontation areas.

Bank of Israel raises interest rates by 0.8%

Commercial banks follow suit

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE Bank of Israel yesterday announced it is raising its key lending rate by 80 base points, to 14.8 percent, effective Thursday. Two months after it last raised its discount rate, from 13.7% to 14.0%, the central bank yesterday cited new indications of inflationary pressures as the reason for its decision to further tighten its monetary policy. Over the first three months of the year, the cost-of-living index rose 2.8%, a pace which would result in an annual inflation of 12%, well above the government's declared target of 8-10%. An expanded money supply — which last month rose by 3.8% — accelerated demand both in the private and the public sectors, and a further increase in the current account deficit left Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel little choice but to raise the price of credit again. Speaking to Israel Radio, Frenkel said that, despite the recent hikes in the central bank's rates, real interest rates — namely the nominal price of credit minus

the level of inflation — has recently been on the decline. As for the government's inflation goal, Frenkel said time is still sufficient for it to be attained through corrective measures over the remainder of the year. Meanwhile, Manufacturers' Association President Dan Propper reiterated his long-standing view that Frenkel's policies have failed, saying cheaper credit would ultimately narrow the current account deficit and reduce overall inflation. However, Tel Aviv University economist Prof. Haim Ben-Shahar supported Frenkel's move, dismissing Propper's suggestion that interest rates bear no impact of inflation and asserting that the deficit stems from over-consumption rather than the credit policies. Lower interest rates might have expanded exports, but would also have accelerated demand, said Ben-Shahar. Ben-Shahar's view carries special weight, since he is considered a confidant of Prime Minister

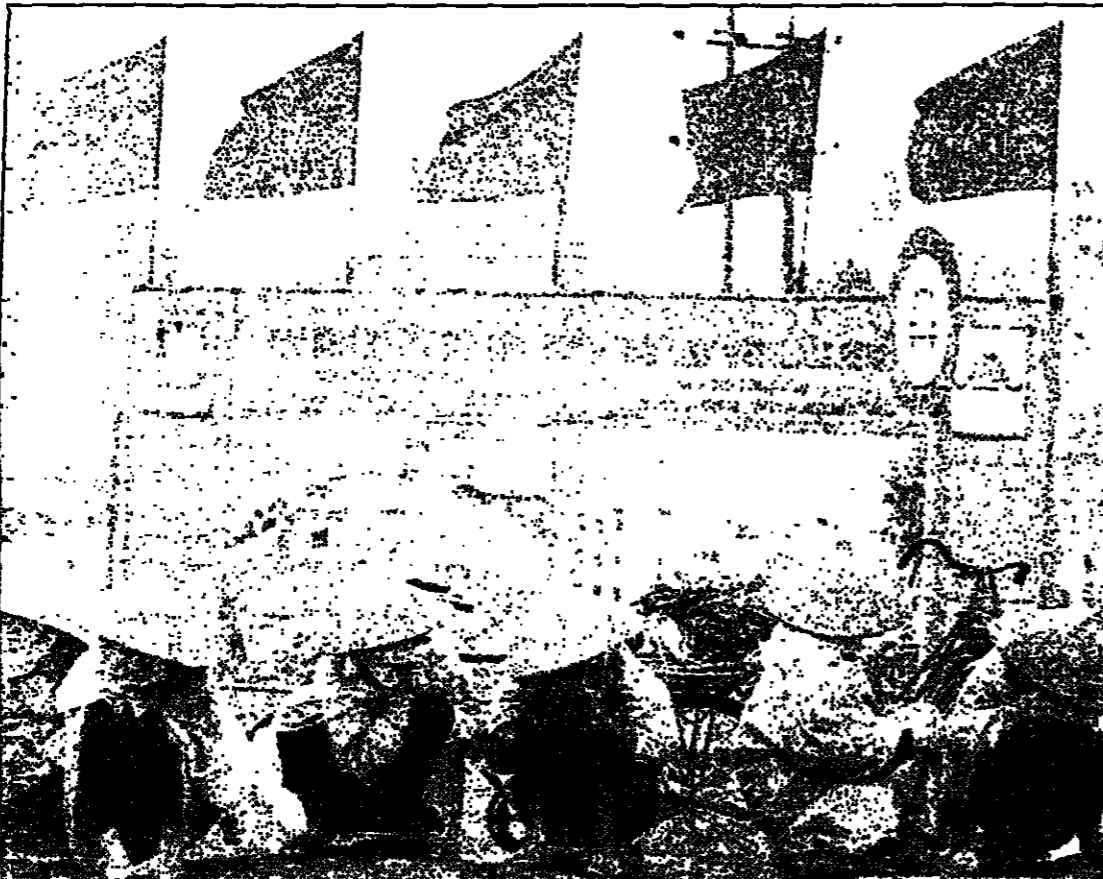
Shimon Peres. The Bank of Israel itself declined to address Propper's specific arguments, saying only that debating with him would be futile, since "he always calls for rate reductions regardless of economic circumstances." The Histadrut said interest rates should only be raised within the framework of a comprehensive package of economic measures. *Galit Lipkis Beck adds:* The five major banks announced yesterday they will raise their prime lending rates 0.8 percentage points on Friday in response to the Bank of Israel's rate hike. All the banks said they would raise their prime lending rates from 15.5% to 16.3%. The banks said the other interest items would remain unchanged. In response to the central bank's rise in interest rates, Propper called for Frenkel to admit the failure of his monetary policy. "The Bank of Israel's policy has not succeeded in reducing inflation, but as a result, it has led to a widening of the balance of payments gap."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Dispute resolved between Bezeq, Makefet
A long dispute between Bezeq and the Makefet pension fund has been resolved after the telecommunications company's management agreed to transfer NIS 180 million to the fund in payment for Communications Ministry workers who moved to Bezeq's board. The agreement, which must still be approved by Bezeq's board of directors, eliminates another barrier in the way of the international stock issues planned by the company, Bezeq director-general Yitzhak Kaul said. The agreement makes it clear to potential investors that the financial commitment will not be a burden on its books or affect its profitability. *Judy Siegel*

FIBI, Menorah to establish pension fund
First International Bank, its parent company FIBI Holdings, and Menorah Insurance yesterday announced plans to establish a new pension fund. It will be named Shiluv Pension Fund. This is the first fund that will be jointly managed by a bank and an insurance firm. Menorah has a 50% stake in the fund, FIBI 25.1% and First International 24.9%. Mordechai Herskovitz, deputy general manager of Menorah, was appointed chairman and manager of Shiluv. Shiluv will offer two pension options, one that places a high emphasis on the savings component and the other with an emphasis on the insurance component. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

KLA transfers final royalty payment to BIRD
KLA Instruments this week transferred a final royalty payment of NIS 5.5m. to the BIRD Foundation for its assistance in developing its KLA 5000 series. The California-based KLA develops equipment used in monitoring the manufacture of silicon wafers for the semiconductor industry. BIRD-F has been involved in supporting the Israeli division of KLA since 1986 and has received a total of NIS 11m. in royalties to date. BIRD-F general manager Dan Wilenski said the fund was proud "to take part in the success of a product which has become a world leader in this field," adding he expected further cooperation in the future. *Rachel Neiman*



A group of Vietnamese hawkers squat on the roadside yesterday in front of a billboard advertising the construction of a new and luxurious resort complex. With the influx of foreign investors following economic reforms introduced in the late 1980s, the need for international standard hotels and leisure centers has risen sharply. (Reuters)

Gilo: Scitex's largest shareholders trying to maintain control over company

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

SCITEX'S largest shareholders are attempting to maintain control over the company by preventing the majority of shareholders from changing the composition of the board and having a say in the company's affairs, claims high-tech entrepreneur David Gilo in a letter sent to Scitex chairman Dov Tadmor at the end of last week. The letter came in reaction to Tadmor's letter to Scitex shareholders which discusses Gilo's hostile attempts to take over the company and claims Gilo's plans are intended to serve his financial interests ahead of the other shareholders. Gilo's letter was also sent in reaction to the purchase by

Scitex's four largest shareholders — International Paper Company, Cial Electronic Industries, Discount Investment and PEC Israel Economic — of more than a million shares of Scitex in the open market last week. "These purchases seem solely designed to thwart my offer, or for that matter any offer to purchase Scitex," Gilo said. "It is a clear attempt to perpetuate control over the company by creating a blocking position in terms of voting control of Scitex." "If the group is successful, it could effectively prevent the

majority of shareholders from changing the make-up of the board and thereby from having a say in the company, its direction and ownership. "Worse yet, by engaging in this creeping tender offer," the group is depriving all of Scitex's other shareholders of the opportunity to receive an appropriate premium for their shares, either now or at any time in the future, without paying any premium themselves." In related news, Furman Seiz has recommended investors purchase Scitex shares, for the second

time in two weeks. According to analyst Robert Feinblatt, Scited Digital Video (SDV) division revenues will grow 20% in 1996 to \$100m. Commenting on Gilo's potential takeover of the company Feinblatt said that "if the current suitor [Gilo] were to disappear, we see maybe \$2 in downside to the shares, while a potential \$8-\$9 in upside exists from current levels. In our view, based on a potential spin-off or take-over scenario. "As a result, we believe long-term value oriented investors should buy the shares aggressively on weakness if a pullback were to materialize due to a vanishing suitor."

McDonnell Douglas signs \$400m. in deals with local defense contractors

STEVE RODAN

MCDONNELL Douglas has signed \$400 million in deals with Israeli defense contractors, more than half of its offset agreement for the IDF's purchase of the F-15L, a senior company executive said yesterday. Robert Trice Jr., McDonnell's vice president of business development, told the Israel Management Center that his company is looking for long-term partnerships with contractors here rather than simply purchasing products from them as part of the offset agreement. "There are very few countries that McDonnell Douglas sees as important strategically to its future," Trice said. "One of them is Israel." In 1993, McDonnell pledged to purchase \$780m. in Israeli goods as part of its more than \$2 billion sale of F-15Ls to the IDF. Trice said the first jets are to arrive in Israel at the end of 1997. Trice said a dozen Israeli companies are already direct suppliers to McDonnell. They include Israel Aircraft Industries' Lahav division, which is a partner in a

bid to upgrade 435 T-38 trainer jets. Elibit and Rafael are working with the US defense contractor to develop the supply the Dash Helmet and Python missile respectively to McDonnell's F-18A. Israel is also one of 11 nations involved in a McDonnell project to develop the MD900 Explorer, a new airplane. In the civilian sector, an Israeli consortium is working with McDonnell to develop solar energy in a project to begin this year. In another project, MadahCom, a small Israeli firm, is working with McDonnell to adapt military communications to develop a commercial public address system. Trice said that during his current trip he will meet with defense officials, as well as local contractors. He stressed that he did not have "a major business agenda" on this trip, including reports that he would try to convince El Al to purchase McDonnell's civilian jets.

Friedman: Banks had authority to charge kibbutzim higher rates

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

COMMERCIAL banks had the authority to charge the kibbutzim current accounts with higher interest than the agreed-upon interest for delay rate, Prof. Daniel Friedman said in the first chapter of his legal opinion report concerning the kibbutz debt crisis. The report was commissioned by Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi in reaction to the Procaccia Report on kibbutz debt, which alleges that the commercial banks miscalculated charges to kibbutzim over many years. Friedman, an Israel Prize winner for jurisprudence, is considered a legal specialist in contracts and company law. In the first chapter, Friedman examines Procaccia's claims that the banks overcharged the kibbutzim by moving their linked loans into current accounts to avoid limitations on interest charges and to charge the kibbutz-

im interest for delay rates. According to Friedman, the kibbutz movement's signing of the initial debt arrangement in 1989 legally implies they cannot demand that the bank's re-examine their accounts or make complaints against the bank's method of calculation in the period in question. In addition, he says the bank's failure to complain to the banks during the relevant period is an indication that they agreed with the bank's interest calculations. Last week, economist Daniel Sidor, who was also commissioned by the banks, submitted his own opinion on the Procaccia Report. Sidor's report concluded that there is no economic significance to Procaccia's claims, due to the banks' and government's widespread write-offs and debt scheduling of kibbutz debt.

PRIME TARGET (סוּרָה) Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents	PRIME מְרִימִים Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents
Date: 18.4.96	Date: 18.4.96
Purchase Price: 147.54	Purchase Price: 108.07
Redemption Price: 146.34	Redemption Price: 107.41
לְמַדְרֵי פְּרִיָּה לְמַדְרֵי פְּרִיָּה	לְמַדְרֵי פְּרִיָּה לְמַדְרֵי פְּרִיָּה

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El Al's net profits up

HAIM SHAPIRO

EL AL yesterday reported a rise in annual net profits to \$15 million from some NIS 14m. in 1994, marking the 10th year in a row in which the national airline ended in the black. Profits from only flight activities went up to \$11.9m. from \$6.4m. in 1994. The company also pointed out that the operating profit last year rose to \$35m. from \$15.7m. According to El Al spokesman Nachman Klieman, the gap between the operating profit and the net profit was largely the result of the fact that the airline acquired five Boeing 747s during the last two years for \$550m. El Al subsidiaries showed an increase in net profit to \$2.7m. from \$1.4m. Company general revenues rose 17.5% to \$1.217m. from

\$1.035m., while expenses went up 16% from \$1.020m. to \$1.182m. The number of passengers flown rose 18% from 2.477 million to 2.929 million. The company flew 210,000 tons of cargo last year, 6.6% more than in 1994. According to the company, this was the second year of the government's liberalization of air passenger traffic, during which it competed with 40 scheduled carriers and 60 charter companies. Airline occupancy rose from 72.4% to 73.8%. New routes during the past year included a flight to Milan and non-stop flights between Los Angeles and Tel Aviv. The company also began using Stansted Airport in London and Newark Airport near New York as a result of increased flights to London and New York.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS				
Patrol (foreign currency deposit rates) (18.4.96)				
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$25,000)	4.825	4.720	4.125	
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.825	4.720	4.125	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.825	4.720	4.125	
U.S. dollar (\$500,000)	4.825	4.720	4.125	
U.S. dollar (\$1,000,000)	4.825	4.720	4.125	
Yen (10 million yen)	0.375	0.375	0.375	

Israeli Foreign Exchange Rates* (18.4.96)				
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES	
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.5476	3.0051	3.10	3.26
German mark	2.1994	2.2138	2.07	2.18
French franc	4.8022	4.8801	4.72	4.85
Japanese yen (100)	0.0225	0.0236	0.02	0.02
Dutch guilder	2.3203	2.3229	2.30	2.31
Swedish krona	1.8833	1.9157	1.88	1.92
Norwegian krona	2.2981	2.2401	2.25	2.28
Swiss franc	0.4621	0.4788	0.46	0.48
British pound	0.4881	0.4882	0.47	0.47
Canadian dollar	0.5894	0.5892	0.58	0.57
Australian dollar	2.2748	2.2748	2.26	2.26
S. African rand	0.7400	0.7400	0.72	0.72
Belgian franc (10)	1.2222	1.2222	1.21	1.21
Austrian schilling (10)	2.2848	2.2848	2.24	2.24
Holland guilder (100)	2.0193	2.0488	1.98	2.02
Italian lira (100)	—	—	4.40	4.37
Spanish peseta (100)	—	—	0.80	0.80
ECU	3.9447	4.0084	3.88	3.97
High para	4.8678	5.0892	4.88	4.92
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2584	2.2589	2.24	2.24

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Kantor: Japan must open up its 'sanctuary' markets

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - New US Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor said Japan continues to maintain excessive barriers against US-made goods that he said must be brought down.

"They still have sanctuary markets," Kantor said on CNN's *Evans and Novak* program. "We're going to open those up."

Kantor, who moved from the position of US trade representative to replace the late Ron Brown as commerce chief, emphasized that he considered progress was being made since a so-called

framework agreement was reached in mid-1993 for Japan to import more US goods.

He said US exports to Japanese markets have risen 85 percent since that time, or about 21/2 times more than US exports have risen to other parts of the world.

In response to questions, Kantor also strongly defended the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico, insisting it has created jobs and added political stability to Mexico.

"We grew 291,000 jobs in just two years as a result of NAFTA -

only lost 52,000 and only 17,000 were related to trade to Mexico," Kantor said.

"It stabilized the Mexican economy, kept investment there," he added.

"This [Mexican] situation would have been a lot worse... had we not had a NAFTA."

On the domestic front, Kantor said he favored raising the US minimum wage not only to inject more money into the economy but also to aid social reform.

"How can we ask people to go off welfare - which we won't

even reform - unless we raise their wages above the poverty level? It makes no sense," Kantor said.

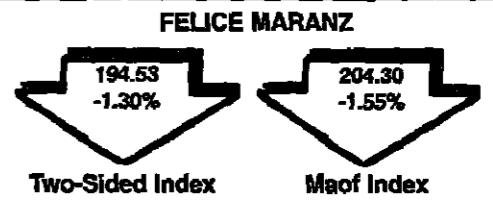
The minimum wage currently is \$4.25 hourly and there is a proposal before Congress to raise it to \$5.15.

The commerce secretary said he anticipated US interest rates will stabilize and that there will be no significant downturn in financial markets.

Corporate profits are on the rise, Kantor noted, adding "We're doing very well in this economy."

Shares drop after rate hike

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



STOCKS sank yesterday after four days of gains after the Bank of Israel announced it will raise the rate at which it lends to banks.

The central bank's decision to lift rates 0.8 percentage points to 14.8 percent, effective Thursday, disappointed investors, said David Rosenberg, head of research at Herzliya investment firm Pacific Mediterranean.

"For most of last week there were people who thought the bank wouldn't raise rates, or that it would raise them at most 0.5 points," said Rosenberg.

Last week share indexes rose more than 3%.

The Maof Index fell 1.55% to 204.3, and the Two-Sided Index fell 1.30% to 194.53. Of 993 issues trading across the exchange, nearly three times as many shares fell as rose.

Some NIS 20.3 million worth of shares traded, NIS 20.3 million above last Thursday's level and about NIS 20m. above last week's average trading level.

Teva Pharmaceuticals Ltd., the most active share on the exchange, was an exception to yesterday's decline.

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Precious metals closed mixed

COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

PRECIOUS metals closed mixed on Friday, with June gold futures trading steady to mixed in a dull session on COMEX, analysts said.

News that the IMF (International Monetary Fund) will likely agree on gold sales to help relieve debt in Third-World countries would represent a short-term bearish factor.

May silver closed slightly lower in an extremely nervous market, analysts said.

Sources said people are looking for silver prices to drop to near \$5.00 in the coming weeks.

July platinum futures closed higher, on the back of some strong producer-buying support, analysts said.

Meanwhile, June palladium futures closed lower in a generally featureless market.

At the close, June gold settled 30 cents higher at \$392.70, while May silver settled 1.0 cent lower at \$5.257.

July platinum settled \$2.30 higher at \$404.30, while June palladium closed \$1.25 lower at \$133.90.

May high grade copper futures closed sharply higher on Friday on COMEX, as strong fund buying continued May copper's recent rally, pushing May futures to close up 240 points at \$1.23.

Wheat and corn took opposite paths on Friday, with wheat closing higher on fund buying and corn closing sharply lower as it was hit by profit taking.

At the close, May corn futures closed down 21/2 cents at \$4.58 per bushel, while May wheat futures closed up 71/2 cents at \$6.08 per bushel.

Soybeans tumbled near Friday's close, pressured by profit taking. Fund selling picked up and buying was scant throughout the day, as soybeans traded weaker for most of the session.

Soy products also saw very thin trade. Soybeans closed weaker, pressured by ideas the market was overdone on Thursday's rally.

May soybean futures closed 131/2 cents weaker at \$7.993/4 per bushel.

May cotton futures settled lower on Friday after late speculative selling entered the market. Sources reported light volume.

May ranged between \$3.85 and \$4.50 cents before settling 9 points lower at \$4.23 cents.

The balance of contracts settled 5 points higher in October 1996 to 130 points lower in October 1997. First notice day for the May contract is Wednesday.

World sugar futures settled slightly lower after a subdued session following Thursday's collapse on technically motivated fund liquidation.

The July contract settled 4 points lower at 10.58 cents - up from the session low of 10.55 cents. The May contract settled 6 points lower at 11.09 cents.

Coffee futures settled lower on Friday after seeing choppy play on the May-July switch in nearby the same range as the market traded on Thursday.

The July contract settled 55 points lower at \$1.1830. The May contract settled 65 points lower at \$1.1815.

Cocoa futures settled lower on a speculative selling prompted by a bearish quarterly US cocoa grind number, traders said.

The July contract settled \$20 lower at \$1.335, while the May contract settled \$17 lower at \$1.318.

Courtesy of Michael Zwebner, CommStock Trading Ltd.

Fayed brothers may float

LONDON (Reuter) - London's landmark Harrods department store may be floated on the stock exchange for as much as £1 billion, according to a report in *The Sunday Times*.

It said the store's owners, the Egyptian Fayed brothers, were considering plans for a flotation. A Harrods spokesman said the report was speculative.

"We are not going to feed rumors, nor engage in speculation," the Harrods spokesman said.

The Sunday Times said the idea of floating Harrods, a vast store which ranks as one of the leading shops in the world, came to the Fayed brothers after they saw the valuation of one of its rivals.

"Mohammed Fayed and his brother, Ali, are thought to have been impressed by the valuation that Harrods' near-neighbor, Harvey Nichols, will achieve when it goes public shortly," the newspaper said.

The brothers paid £573 million for Harrods' owner, House of Fraser, in 1983.

They subsequently floated off other Fraser stores while enlarging Harrods.

As a private company, Harrods Holdings reported pretax profits of £70.9m. for the year to January 1995.

New UK Sunday paper launched in crowded market

LONDON (Reuter) - Britain's first Sunday newspaper devoted entirely to business was launched yesterday in an already crowded media market.

The launch of *Sunday Business* was bedeviled by problems, with its London printer withdrawing at the 11th hour and reports that a major investor, the Hinduja family from Bombay, had pulled out.

But the print went ahead with a headline claim that the ruling British Conservatives were awarding a £3.5 billion defense contract to British Aerospace in a bid to boost party support in constituencies where the firm has factories.

A Defense Ministry spokesman, quoted in the market-leading rival paper *The Sunday Times*, said: "No decision on the contract has yet been made."

Sunday Business needs to sell 150,000 copies to break even, but editor and founder Tom Rubythorn is confident he can reach his target of 220,000.

"Obviously we would not be trying this if we didn't think it could work," he said.

The Sunday Times, the *Sunday Telegraph*, the *Observer* and the *Independent* on Sunday are battling for readers in the quality market. All carry extensive business news.

The Sunday Times is top, with average circulation of almost 1.3 million. *The Sunday Telegraph* sells 660,000 copies, the *Observer* 465,000 and the *Independent* on Sunday around 315,000.

The Sunday Correspondent closed in 1990, just over a year after its launch. *The Financial Times*, Britain's leading businessman's daily, does not publish on Sunday.

Food importers face months of grain price anxiety

PARIS (Reuter) - The world's poorest nations face months of anxiety over grain prices - now at record highs and threatening their weak economies, analysts and traders said yesterday.

Lack of rain is drying out the US wheat belt and threatens to postpone for another year a much-needed recovery in global grain reserves from 20-year lows.

Doomsday predictions by Thomas Malthus, the 18th-century British cleric who predicted rising populations would run out of food, are far from being proved right.

But the margin for failure is uncomfortably slim in a year when Western farmers are struggling to make up for several annual production shortfalls which have eaten into stocks.

"I think we can get through this year on the back of stocks, but if there is a bad crop in 1996, then we could be in a more serious position," said Bill de Maria, assistant executive director at the International Grains Council.

Fears of damage in the US, the world's largest grain exporter, started a stampede on frantic Midwest futures exchanges last week. Wheat and corn prices soared with a bushel of Kansas wheat touching an all-time high near \$6.40.

Dealers said wheat in several important areas had been starved of moisture and appeared to be deteriorating rapidly.

Storms moving now into the Midwest could spark a sell-off if they bring enough rain. But with no let-up in demand, wheat importers face months of

agonizing volatility, traders said.

"The heat will not be out of this market until the end of July," said a senior US trader in Geneva, the capital for grain deals between Western exporters and the Third World.

In a sign of alarm on Friday, Morocco, a key importer whose economy has already been hit hard by high prices, canceled its second attempt in a week to buy 60,000 tonnes of foreign wheat.

Such a purchase would cost some \$15 million today, whereas two years ago - with exporter subsidies that have since been axed due to high prices - it would have cost a third as much.

Consumption is rising steadily, as more people in developing countries move to cities and grow accustomed to Western

diets that eventually require grain - bread, meat and dairy goods.

To prevent unrest, many countries which encouraged the trend are unwilling to halt the flow of wheat, meaning funds must be diverted from elsewhere in their economies, experts say.

"The have-nots are slowly creeping up on the haves. A higher proportion of a larger population is beginning to get a better diet," said another European trader. "The question is where does the money come from?"

Adding to importers' unease, markets are obsessed by weather this year but they cannot fully erase the memory of Soviet raids on U.S. markets which caused the last price boom 20 years ago.

EU fisheries ministers to agree on more flexible quota system

BRUSSELS (Reuter) Fishermen look set to benefit from a more flexible fish catch quota system due to be agreed by European Union fisheries ministers today, EU officials said.

Quotas are currently set annually causing serious problems for fishermen toward the end of the year, when limits for certain species are exhausted and fisheries have to be closed.

But the European Commission, the EU's executive, has now proposed allowing fishermen to borrow up to 20 percent of a fish catch quota from the following year if the current quota is finished.

"The proposal is of strategic importance, because it will allow fishermen to plan their fishing better," European Commission fisheries spokesman Filippo di Robilant said.

It will reduce wastage due to the jettisoning, or discarding, of fish which have been caught as by-catches but whose quotas have been fully utilized, he added.

For instance, fishermen hunting sole may catch plaice in the same net but have to throw it overboard because its quota has been filled.

Some EU member states, anxious to safeguard stocks, oppose the commission's plan to borrow from next year's quota, saying it could encourage overfishing.

Officials said a compromise of 10% could be agreed, but it was premature to say which species or fishing zones would be affected.

However, stocks for which no scientific advice is available, and where "precautionary" total allowable catches (TACs) are set, are the most likely to be included in the scheme.

Any borrowing of quotas would be regarded as a "loan" and should be paid back, officials said. A similar arrangement would apply to transferring any unused quotas to the following year.

Fishermen would be penalized for overfishing by having quotas cut the following year. Penalties would start to bite after catches exceeded quotas by more than 10% and would then be progressively increased.

The new system, which would take effect from January 1997, depends upon all member states giving accurate figures for fish landings, officials stressed.

But some said the record of some countries caused concern.

Survey: Vietnam most stressful for managers in Asia

SINGAPORE (Reuter) - Vietnam is the most stressful country to live and work in Asia, followed by India, China, South Korea and Indonesia, according to a survey of expatriate managers by a Hong Kong-based group.

At the other end of the scale was Singapore, trailed by Malaysia, Hong Kong and Japan: the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd (PERC) said in its latest Asian Intelligence report made available yesterday.

In the survey, carried out in the first quarter of 1996, expatriate managers were asked to grade stress levels in their living and working environment both in their home and host countries.

Singapore scored 2.43 and Vietnam 7.56 on a scale of zero to 10, with zero representing the best situation possible and 10 the worst. Other countries surveyed included Thailand, Taiwan and

the Philippines.

With the exception of Americans, who consider the environment in Singapore to be less stressful than that of the US, most other respondents - including Australians, Swiss and British - considered stress levels at home to be significantly less than in virtually every Asian country.

PERC said Singapore may have received its favorable grade, because expatriates in the island-state found it easier to communicate and understand the concerns of Singaporeans.

It said the main cause of the stress doing business in Vietnam or China was an initial inability to communicate and understand each other's specific goals for joint ventures and, once an arrangement was entered into, a continued inability to communicate each other's logic and concerns.

Multi-sided trading				Two-sided trading			
Name	Price	% Change	Volume	Name	Price	% Change	Volume
Commercial				Afternoon			
Bank				Morning			
Bank Leumi	1790	-0.2	100	Alpar	475	-0.0	50400
Bank Hapoalim	1780	-0.1	100	Electron	3894	-1.2	980
Bank Mizrahi	1770	-0.1	100	Electron	1321	-0.7	3211
Bank Leumi	1760	-0.1	100	Electron	1025	-0.5	130.5
Bank Hapoalim	1750	-0.1	100	Electron	319	-0.5	3800
Bank Mizrahi	1740	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1730	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1720	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1710	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1700	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1690	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1680	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1670	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1660	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1650	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1640	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1630	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1620	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1610	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1600	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1590	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1580	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1570	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1560	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1550	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1540	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1530	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1520	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1510	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1500	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1490	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1480	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1470	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1460	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1450	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1440	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1430	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1420	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1410	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1400	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1390	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1380	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1370	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1360	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1350	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
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Bank Mizrahi	1320	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1310	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1300	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1290	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1280	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1270	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1260	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1250	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Hapoalim	1240	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Mizrahi	1230	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145
Bank Leumi	1220	-0.1	100	Electron	311020	-0.5	145

Knicks clinch 5th playoff spot Rangers still confident despite trailing 2-0

BOSTON (AP) - Patrick Ewing had 28 points and 13 rebounds yesterday as the New York Knicks clinched the fifth seed in the Eastern Conference with their 15th consecutive victory over the Boston Celtics, 122-111.

The win snapped a two-game losing streak that ruined New York's chance for home-court advantage. The Knicks finished 47-35 - their lowest win total in five years - and will play the Cleveland Cavaliers in the first round of the playoffs.

Boston finished 33-49. In its first season away from the Boston Garden, the once-proud franchise had its third consecutive losing season.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Cavaliers 75, Pistons 73
Bobby Phills stripped the ball from Grant Hill with 1.1 seconds left, preserving Cleveland's 75-73 victory over the Detroit Pistons as the Cavaliers clinched homecourt advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Phills scored 21 points and Chris Mills had 18 for Cleveland, which wrapped up the fourth seed in the Eastern Conference. The Pistons, who got 26 points from Allan Houston, are now assured of opening the playoffs on the road.

Both teams were scheduled to finish the regular season yesterday.

Cleveland at Indiana and Detroit at home against Milwaukee.

Pacers 100, Bulls 99
Chicago failed to tie the NBA record of 40 home wins in a season as Eddie Johnson's last-second free throw gave Indiana the victory.

The Bulls lost two of their last four regular-season games at the United Center after opening with a league-record 37 consecutive victories. They needed a win to tie the 1985-86 Boston Celtics' mark of 40-1. The other home loss, to Charlotte on April 8, was also by one point.

Michael Jordan scored 24 points and rallied the Bulls from a 99-91 deficit to tie with 50 seconds left, hitting a 3-pointer, assisting on Toni Kukoc's 3-pointer and then making a 10-foot jumper.

But Jordan missed a 20-footer for the lead with about 10 seconds left, then was called for fouling Johnson, who was firing up a jumper from just inside the 3-point line with a half-second left. Johnson made the first free throw and missed the second intentionally.

Hawks 121, Nets 99
Christian Laettner and Mookie Blaylock scored 20 points apiece for host Atlanta, which outscored New Jersey 34-15 in the third quarter.

Atlanta went into the final day of the regular season with a 45-36 record, tied with Detroit for the sixth playoff spot and one game behind New York which grabbed the fifth spot.

Jazz 104, Kings 92
Karl Malone scored 18 points and Utah tied its second-best season with 55 victories as the Jazz won at home.

The Kings, assured of eighth place in the Western Conference, were led by Olden Polynice with 21 points and Mitch Richmond and Lionel Simmons with 13 apiece.

Utah, seeded third, will open the postseason at home Thursday night against No. 6 Portland. Sacramento will be at top-seeded Seattle on Friday.

Lakers 106, Timberwolves 82
Cedric Ceballos scored 22 of his 36 points in the second half as the Los Angeles routed Minnesota in their home finale, giving Del Harris his 100th victory as their head coach.

The Lakers, who have gone 36-12 after a 17-17 start, concluded their regular schedule yesterday at Portland before starting their first-round playoff series against the two-time defending NBA champion Houston Rockets next Thursday night at the Forum.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Cleveland 75, Detroit 73
Indiana 100, Chicago 99
Atlanta 121, New Jersey 99
Utah 104, Sacramento 92
LA Lakers 106, Minnesota 82

MONTREAL (AP) - For a team that's lost twice at home to an underdog, the visiting New York Rangers have lost little of their cockiness.

The Rangers believe they outplayed the Montreal Canadiens in the opening two matches of the best-of-7 NHL playoff series and were looking forward to yesterday's game at the Molson Centre.

"We dominated those games in a lot of areas with the exception of putting the puck in the net," Rangers coach Colin Campbell said Saturday. "We produced a lot of chances."

"We did all the right things. We worked well down low. But they scored on the rush."

Now, the 1994 Stanley Cup champions must win in Montreal, where they're 1-17-3 in their last 21 visits, against a young Canadiens team gaining confidence with each victory.

Four other games were set for Sunday with Chicago and Detroit both taking 2-0 leads on the road. The Blackhawks were slated to play in Calgary while the Red Wings headed to Winnipeg. Elsewhere, Philadelphia was scheduled to break its 1-1 series tie with host Tampa Bay, and the

Blues and Toronto also were tied 1-1 entering Game 3 in St. Louis.

In Saturday night's action, Colorado beat Vancouver 4-0 to take a 2-1 lead in their best-of-7 Western Conference series. Peter Forsberg, Valeri Kamensky and Claude Lemieux each scored power-play goals in the first two periods as the Avalanche's special teams dominated the game at the Pepsi Center.

After winning the first game 3-2 in overtime, Montreal coach Mario Tremblay showed his players a newspaper clipping quoting New York general manager Neil Smith as saying New York would win the series because the Rangers are "bigger and stronger."

"It said the longer the series went, the better their chances were," said Tremblay. "I don't think the smaller guys like (Saku) Koivu or (Valeri) Bure liked that too much."

Not all the Rangers are as confident.

"You can't say you played well when you lose two games at home," Rangers defenseman Ulf Samuelsson said. "But it's not a fiasco yet."

"I think we played better than

we did in the last month of the season, but we can't turn it on and off. We have to keep getting better."

Tampa Bay returns home after its 2-1 overtime victory Thursday night and were happy not to have to face an entirely healthy Flyers team. Eric Lindros bruised his left knee Thursday and Joel Orosz sprained his left knee, but both were expected to play. John LeClair (sprained left ankle) and John Druce (sprained left knee) are less likely.

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Pittsburgh at Washington (today) (Washington leads series 2-0)
NY Rangers at Montreal (last night) (Montreal leads series 2-0)
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay (last night) (Series tied at 1-1)
Boston at Florida (today) (Florida leads series 1-0)
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Colorado 4, Vancouver 0
Colorado at Vancouver (today) (Colorado leads series 2-1)
Detroit at Winnipeg (last night) (Detroit leads series 2-0)
Chicago at Calgary (last night) (Chicago leads series 2-0)
Toronto at St. Louis (last night) (Series tied 1-1)

SATURDAY'S STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE				WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				Midwest Division				
*Orlando	59	22	728	-	*San Antonio	59	22	728
*New York	46	35	569	13	*Utah	55	27	671
*Miami	42	39	519	17	*Houston	47	34	580
Washington	39	42	481	20	Denver	34	47	420
Boston	33	48	407	26	Minnesota	26	56	317
New Jersey	30	52	365	29 1/2	Dallas	25	59	309
Philadelphia	17	64	210	42	Vancouver	14	67	173
Central Division				Pacific Division				
*Chicago	71	10	877	-	*Seattle	64	17	790
*Indiana	51	30	630	20	*L.A. Lakers	52	29	642
*Cleveland	47	34	580	24	*Portland	44	37	543
Detroit	45	36	556	26	*Phoenix	41	40	506
*Atlanta	45	36	556	26	*Sacramento	38	43	489
Charlotte	41	40	506	30	Golden State	36	45	444
Milwaukee	25	56	309	46	L.A. Clippers	29	52	358
Toronto	21	60	259	50				

* - clinched playoff spot - clinched division - won conference title

Muster chides 'American' Agassi after winning Spanish Open

BARCELONA (Reuters) - Thomas Muster retained his Spanish Open title yesterday, outlasting Chilean sixth-seed Marcelo Rios - and then took a verbal swipe at Andre Agassi in their ongoing debate about American domination of the sport.

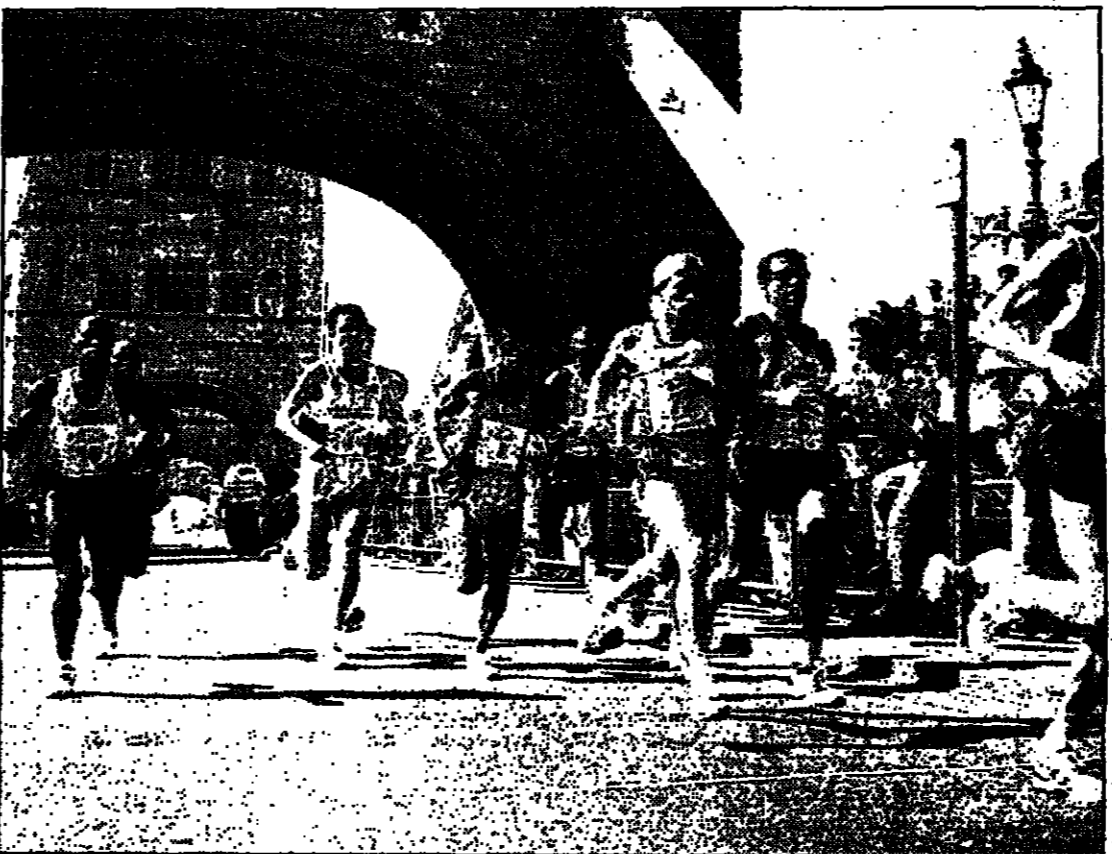
Muster criticized US control of the circuit on Friday, saying it meant clay-court tennis was dying because tournaments played on the surface were squeezed into just eight weeks.

Agassi responded on Saturday by suggesting the Austrian "would not be so paranoid if there weren't so many people following him everywhere" and Muster could not resist the temptation of another verbal volley.

"His comments probably come from eating too many hamburgers with English meat," said Muster, after clocking up his 30th consecutive victory on clay with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 win over Rios. Muster, who last week yielded his No. 1 world ranking to Pete Sampras, lost his serve in the third game but broke back twice to take the first set.

Rios survived two break points at 4-4, kept his serve and then broke Muster to take the second set but after a break at the beginning of the third set there was no way back for the Chilean.

"I knew when I took the first set, even though he won the second, that I would win. He tired and started missing a lot of balls towards the end," said Muster, whose third title of the season was achieved in characteristically uncompromising style.



HAT-TRICK - Dionicio Ceron (No. 1) passes beneath the Tower Bridge en route to his third-straight London Marathon title yesterday. With temperatures reaching the mid-70s F, Ceron won in 2 hours 10 minutes.

IFA calls off all 2nd Division matches

THE Israel Football Association having decided to postpone the next round of Second Division matches by at least a week and hold them on May 4.

The move comes following Hapoel Kiryat Shmona's inability to keep up with the rest of the league due to the security situation in the North. The IFA has been left with no option, as its standing orders state that any backlog of postponed fixtures must be cleared within five matches of the completion of the league. Kiryat Shmona has been paralyzed since the deterioration of the security situation there during the past two weeks. With 25

matches of the 30-round league having been played by last Saturday, Kiryat Shmona has still to complete matches against Maccabi Kiryat Gat and Maccabi Yavne. The next fixture this weekend is a home match against Hapoel Ramat Gan. The postponed matches have been rescheduled, with the northerners due to host Kiryat Gat on April 30 and the away match in Yavne to be played on May 6. IFA managing director Ya'akov Erel said yesterday that there is still a chance that the decision could be changed, but only if a cease fire in Operation Grapes of Wrath is reached within the next 24 hours.

Mets snap skid with 10th-inning win

NEW YORK (AP) - Jose Vizcaino, back in the lineup after the birth of his son, singled home the winning run with two outs in the 10th inning and the New York Mets beat the Colorado Rockies 4-3, ending a three-game losing streak.

Andres Galarrraga homered twice Saturday, doubled and drove in all three Rockies runs. He led off the ninth inning with a home run against John Franco (2-0), tying it at 3-3.

Ray Ordonez opened the Mets' 10th with a blop single off John Haysyan (0-1) and moved to second on a two-strike sacrifice by pinch-hitter Brent Mayne. Vizcaino singled, and Ordonez slid home ahead of right fielder Dante Bichette's throw.

Vizcaino led Friday night's game for a pinch-hitter when his wife, Jessica, went into labor with the couple's third child. Their son, Jonathan, was born later in the evening.

Giants 3, Cubs 4
Barry Bonds homered, doubled and drove in three runs and visiting San Francisco ended Chicago's four-game winning streak.

The teams combined for five home runs, taking advantage of 21 mph winds. A day earlier, the clubs hit nine homers.

Bonds went 3-for-5. He led off the third inning with his sixth home run, a towering shot onto Sheffield Avenue, beyond the right-field bleachers, and had a two-run double in the fourth.

Expos 11, Pirates 2
Darin Fletcher hit his first grand slam and tied a career-high with five RBIs and Henry Rodriguez homered twice, leading Pedro Martinez and Montreal to a home win.

Rodriguez, who also doubled and drove in four runs, and Moises Alou hit consecutive home runs in the first inning against John Ericks (0-3). Ericks has lost eight straight decisions since last Aug. 5.

Fletcher hit a grand slam off reliever Lee Hancock during a six-run third inning and added an RBI single in the fifth.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Indians 2, Red Sox 1
Jack McDowell pitched five-hit ball for 6 innings for his second victory over Boston this week and Jolito Franco had a two-run single to lead host Cleveland. McDowell (2-1), who earned his 13th career shutout in a 8-0 victory on Monday, allowed one run before leaving with two outs and a man on in the seventh in Saturday's game. Jose Mesa pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

White Sox 8, Athletics 3
Tony Phillips homered and drove in four runs for visiting Chicago.

The White Sox won their third in a row and sent the A's to their fourth straight loss.

Rangers 8, Orioles 3
Will Clark drove in four runs, including a three-run homer in the first inning, and Juan Gonzalez added a two-run homer as host Texas won its fourth straight, matching its best start ever at 12-4.

Ivan Rodriguez went 3-for-5 with a solo homer, double and single for Texas.

Yankees 7, Twins 6
Ruben Sierra homered twice and drove in four runs as visiting New York spoiled Rick Aguilera's return to the starting rotation and stopped a three-game losing streak.

Aguilera lasted only three innings in his first start since September 1989, allowing four runs and seven hits in three innings.

John Wetteland pitched the ninth for his second save, allowing an RBI double to pinch-hitter Chip Hale.

SATURDAY'S NL GAMES
Montreal 11, Pittsburgh 2
New York 4, Colorado 3 (10)
San Francisco 8, Chicago 4
Florida 7, Los Angeles 4
St. Louis 1, Philadelphia 0
Atlanta 6, San Diego 5
Cincinnati 6, Houston 1

SATURDAY'S AL GAMES
Cleveland 2, Boston 1
Milwaukee 12, Kansas City 4
Chicago 8, Oakland 3
Texas 8, Baltimore 6
New York 7, Minnesota 6
California 2, Detroit 1
Toronto 3, Seattle 1

LOCAL GOLF - In this weekend's Nassau Golf Competition at the Casares Golf Club, Michael Dandle and Romi Mosenson scored 46 place with 25 points on the back nine. Yitzhak Danker and Eli Hasson were third with their 23 on the front nine.

Joseph Hoffman, Sports Editor

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